JOHN BULL

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For meaning of this number see page iii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

Contents

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

John Bull's Biscuits.

In Defence of the Dukes.

Imaginary Interview.

The John Bull League.

The Hurly Burly.

Notes on Aviation.

Tales Concerning Teeth.

John Bull in the City.

Among the Lawyers.

John Bull's Post-cards, Letters, and Telegrams.

The Cartoon.

The Drama of To-day.

John Bull's Womenfolk.

Bull's Eyes.

John Bull's Letter Bag.

Racing Notes, etc.

The Rubber Exploration Company, Limited,

Having acquired from

JOHN BULL LIMITED

(ENGLISH COMPANY).

24,000 Six Per Cent. Cumulative Convertible Preference Shares of £1 each,

Being the Balance of an authorised Issue of 50,000 Shares,

NOW OFFER THE SAME FOR SALE AT PAR.

The Holders of Preference Shares have the right to convert the same into Ordinary Shares, at any time, on giving notice to the Company.

The phenomenal success of JOHN BULL has been the feature of modern journalism. It has broken every record in the newspaper world, and, as will be seen by the subjoined particulars, it continues to make further remarkable progress.

When, a year ago, the English company, JOHN BULL LIMITED, was formed, the prospectus stated that the average circulation of the journal was 165,503 copies per week, whilst for the then current week it was 180,000 copies; and the gross advertising income was stated to amount to between £200 and £250 per week.

The following letter received by the Rubber Exploration Company, Limited, will indicate the enormous strides made by the journal during the last twelve months:—

JOHN BULL, LIMITED,
67, Long Acre, London, W.C.,
October 15th, 1909.

To the Directors of the
RUBBER EXPLORATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—*In reply to your inquiry, I am instructed to say that my Directors do not propose to issue a Balance Sheet until the end of the present year, when the accounts will cover the entire period since the Incorporation of the present Company.*

For your information, however, I am authorised to state that the circulation of JOHN BULL *has enormously increased during the past 12 months, and that it is increasing every week. The actual number printed of the current issue amounts to between* **three and four hundred thousand copies.**

With regard to the advertising income—this has practically trebled itself during the past 12 months, and the advertisement orders for the issue now going to press amount to nearly **£900.**

In reply to your inquiry as to the Reserve Fund, I am instructed to inform you that my Directors are now investing a portion of such fund in endowment policies on the life of the Chairman and Editor, the intention being to ultimately take out policies to the full amount of the Preference issue

Yours faithfully,
COLES L. HARRIS,
Secretary.

The Directors of the Company are:

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P., 67, Long Acre, London, W.C., Founder and Editor of JOHN BULL, *Governing Director.*

HENRY T. BURTON, Managing Director of THE PARTINGTON ADVERTISING COMPANY, LIMITED, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C.

J. S. ELIAS, Director and Manager of ODHAMS LIMITED and SOUTHWOOD, SMITH AND CO., LIMITED, Newspaper Proprietors, Printers, and Publishers, Long Acre, London, W.C., *Business Manager.*

As is well known, a newspaper property, firmly established, constitutes one of the safest investments of an industrial character, and inasmuch as only £3,000 per annum is required to pay the interest upon the Preference Shares, it will be seen that there is a very large surplus, so that the dividend for such shares is absolutely assured. At the time of the issue of the prospectus a year ago, the Auditors certified that the net profits were even then sufficient to pay the dividend upon the 50,000 Preference Shares *several times over.*

Intending purchasers should fill up the annexed form and forward same to the Secretary of the Rubber Exploration Company, Limited, 52, New Broad Street, London, E.C.

TO THE SECRETARY,

THE RUBBER EXPLORATION CO., Ltd.,
52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.

I desire to purchase fully paid 6 per cent. Cumulative Convertible Preference Shares of £1 each in JOHN BULL, LIMITED (English Company), at 20s. per share net, and I herewith enclose £ , being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per share on the said shares, and I agree to pay the balance of 17s. 6d. per share in exchange for the transfer of same.

Full Name .....

Address .....

Signature .....

Date .....

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. VII. No. 177. Saturday, October 23rd, 1909. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor, or the Publisher, at 67, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.
All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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DALY'S.—EVERY EVENING, at 8, Mr. George Edwardes' new production, THE DOLLAR PRINCESS, a musical play, in three acts, MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2. Box-office (Mr. H. W. Anderson) 10 to 10.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Edwardes. EVERY EVENING, at 8, a musical play, OUR MISS GIBBS. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2. Box-office open daily, 10 till 10.

JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

INAUGURAL MEETING

AT

THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL,

TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY), OCTOBER 21st, 1909.

Chair will be taken at 8.30 p.m.

BY

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, Esq., M.P.
(President of the League).

The Musical Arrangements are in the hands of
MR. J. M. GLOVER,
Director of Music, Drury Lane Theatre.

The British Imperial Military Band, of 50 Performers, has been engaged.

Conductor: MR. W. DAVIN, R.I.O.

The League Song will be sung by Mr. Leo Stormont, with Organ and Orchestral accompaniment.

Special Trains will be run by various Railway Companies.

Every available seat has been allotted, but any returned tickets will be distributed on personal application to-day to the Secretary of the League, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

How goes the Budget? Last week, we told the story of the King's efforts at peace-making, which were renewed just after we had gone to press. The position remains much as it was, with this important qualification—that Lord Lansdowne will not actively encourage rejection; but he does not think he can prevent it. At least, that is what he is saying to his friends. We *still* think the crisis will come before the end of November.

What a dreadful blunder it was on the part of the Government to spoil the Land proposals by those wretched Licensing and Tobacco clauses! By itself, Land would have carried the country. As it is—well, Bermondsey will soon tell us.

By the way, Mr. Hemmerde was in great form at the Hackney demonstration, and quite won the hearts of the big meeting. He knows his subject upside down, and but for an unsympathetic reference to Mr. Chamberlain (for whom, in these sad days, the man in the street has a soft place in his heart), the speech was an artistic masterpiece. We could not, however, help noticing one little admission. Mr. Hemmerde is a strong supporter of the Licensing taxes—*we* have always said that the Trade is already burdened to its utmost capacity. And when he came to illustrating the anomalies of our rating system, he took as one of his illustrations, the cases of Devonshire House and the Ritz Hotel. The former, standing on several acres, is rated at £4,000, and the latter, occupying half an acre, is rated at £17,000! *Verb. sap.!*

The "trial" and execution of Señor Ferrer constitute an outrage upon civilisation, and would justify Britain "recalling" the Queen of Spain. No English princess ought to be permitted to soil our name by association with such a set of horrible barbarians. Even the *Morning Post* is forced to protest.

Imagine having Ferrer's counsel arrested because he showed "undue zeal" in the conduct of his case. What a lucky thing for Mr. Horace Avory and Mr. Muir that they are not at the Spanish Bar!

To-night (Thursday) comes the meeting of the John Bull League. For all particulars, see advertisement on opposite column, and announcements on page 544.

A man who, like the late Mr. Harriman, has a fortune of fifty-three millions, and can think of nothing better to do with it than leave it to his wife, provides food for reflection. The odd three millions should have been sufficient for all the good lady's reasonable requirements.

Mr. Stephen Paget, the lurid gentleman who holds advanced views about the infallibility of the medical profession, has followed up his tirade at the Church Congress by an exhibition of blood and thunder at the Congregational Union. As we have already stated, we are not concerned to defend or attack Christian Science, or any other form of religion or therapeutics. But we should be glad to know from the authorities of the Church Congress whether their annual gathering is not intended to be restricted to members of the Anglican community. Otherwise, anybody with an axe to grind, from a Polar explorer down to a dealer in pills and ointments, should be given an opportunity of self-advertisement. We would ask a similar question of the Congregational Union.

We have long realised that modern Greeks belong to the domain of comic opera, but they have rarely exposed themselves to such an extremity of ridicule as they did the other day when their Government introduced a Bill to exclude royal princes from military service, and, at the same time, to recognise them as members of the army. No doubt the princes are by this time sufficiently Greek to exhibit only the Greek notion of soldiery, which may be summed up in the maxim that discretion is the better part of valour. But that any human being, let alone a prince of a reigning dynasty, should be expected to submit to the gross affront of being declared incapable of military service and yet, at the same time, should go about in a gorgeous military uniform, affords a pleasantry beside which the situations associated with the name of Sir W. S. Gilbert are painfully serious.

A horrible announcement appeared in the *Manchester Evening News* a few days ago. It stated that in connection with the Blackpool flying meeting a Mr. John Talbot Clifton, of Lytham Hall, proposed to entertain a large house party, consisting of the Grand Duke Michael, the Duke of Westminster, the Duke of Sutherland, the Duke of Teck, Lord Lonsdale, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill. Whereupon Mrs. Clifton demanded immediate contradiction as to Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Churchill. "Your mistake has put us to considerable inconvenience," said the lady, "for not being being ourselves Socialists we should not entertain these gentlemen." They may therefore consider themselves cut in the upper circles of Lytham Hall. Perhaps it is a merciful dispensation. An eminent divine once broached at dinner the subject of the possibility of an After Life for animals. "But fancy, Bishop," remarked the lady sitting next him—"fancy meeting all the quails one has had on toast." Fancy meeting all the Dukes Mr. Lloyd George is now having on toast!

Doubtless the ratepayers of Derby will appreciate the engaging frankness of Alderman Hart, J.P., the Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee of the Corporation. At the last meeting of the Council, Councillor Newbold, with the lofty spirit of one who does but search for truth, inquired concerning the recent picnic of the members of the Corporation in connection with the Derwent Valley water scheme; inquired how much was spent on champagne; prayed for light on the cost of the cigars; sought understanding as to the expenditure "on conveyances and little outings in the afternoon after the inspection of the waterworks had been completed." Immediately up rose the Alderman, as pants the Hart for cooling streams. "All the information," he said, "was on page 537; £12 10s. was spent in champagne, £4 11s. in cigars, and £9 2s. 6d. in conveyances." Then the members laughed a great laugh—and proceeded to consider the report of the Distress Committee and the Statistics of the Unemployment Register!

This is to give notice to the Rochester magistrates that they will hear of something to their disadvantage if they do not show immediate signs of improvement in conduct. We hear of a case in which they have fined a cabman £10, as a first offence, for handing a betting slip to a "runner." Our information is that the man was confined for four days in the police cell till the evidence against him was prepared, and when he was brought up to answer the charge he does not even appear to have been asked if he had anything to say in his defence. We merely mention this case in passing, so that their worships may be on their guard lest again they catch the Bull's eye.

Is not it about time that the Bishop of the diocese offered a friendly word of advice to the Rev. Thomas Lloyd, rector of Theydon Garnon, Essex? Unless our recollection is at fault, our rev. brother had to appear in court not long ago on accusations of having assaulted the people's warden by locking him in church. His latest advertisement comes from the County Court at Waltham Abbey, where he was sued (and the verdict given against him) by his organ-blower for £1 0s. 3d., being nine months' arrears of salary at sixpence per Sunday. Reckoning two services a day, this works out at threepence per blow, which, according to any view of the Christian religion, cannot be regarded as excessive remuneration. There was no allegation that the organ-blower was inefficient in the discharge of his arduous duties. As a matter of fact the Rev. Thomas did not appear to make any allegation at all, and judgment was given in his absence. If the rector could not raise the wind himself the least he could do was to hand round the hat among his congregation.

Evidently the fried-fish shop has no glamour for his Honour Judge Dodd, of Hull. A woman who was awarded £250 in a compensation case in his court asked for part of the amount to be paid to her in the lump so that she could set up in business. "All right," said the Judge, "but don't take a fried-fish shop. The fried-fish business is terrible. I dislike the smell." Another winner wanted money down to start a "mixed business." "Very good," responded the Judge, "but my parting words are, 'Avoid fried-fish.'" We haven't any intimate acquaintance with the financial aspects of this odorous industry, which certainly concentrates in the multifarious pathways of our civilisation all the seven stinks of Bagdad, but judging by its popularity in London we should incline to the opinion that it compares favourably, as an investment, with Consols. There are streets where people seem to eat and breathe nothing except fried-fish, where fried-fish (and potatoes) are not only the main theme of social converse, but are the foundations of society. For the moment fried-fish in Hull may be sharing in the slump which has fallen on all classes of investments, but when we get Tariff Reform there will probably be a considerable rise in values and an increase of custom, consequent on a return of public confidence and a re-awakening of the speculative spirit.

Although we should be sorry to see the day when British citizens were not willing to undergo some little inconvenience in the service of the State, we think that the limit was exceeded in the case of the famous Maypole Colliery disaster inquiry. That inquest lasted nearly eleven months, and it was practically a Board of Trade investigation, as well as a Coroner's inquest. Yet the jurors received nothing whatever for their services. Some of them had to hire people to do their work whilst they attended the inquest, and others suffered by loss of business. Even the workmen thrown out of employment by the disaster received relief from the Fund started by the Mayor of Wigan; only the jurors, apparently, had to stand the racket.

"What is this silly nonsense," asks a reader, "that one cannot obtain a bottle of mineral waters to drink after 10 p.m. unless the proprietor has a licence? I was out for a cycling tour and reached Hythe about 10.15 p.m., and feeling thirsty, and seeing a small general shop open, I asked for a lemonade. I was informed that they could not serve me after 10 p.m. as they had not a licence; however, the proprietor said if I took it out in the roadway to drink it and not let anyone see me (so as not to get him into trouble), he would supply me; this I did. Can this be really the law? If so, how is it if I had cared to have gone into a public-house I could obtain a quencher? Well might Bumble have said, 'The law is a ass.' Please enrol me a member of the John Bull League, as for some time past I have felt a desire to do my share in the putting down of cant." Duly enrolled.

It would be very interesting to know precisely what was in the mind of Mr. Charles Morgan, of C. Morgan and Co., Cannon Street, E.C., when he made his will penalising any of his daughters who should marry ministers "of any denomination," and not merely the daughters, but any of their children who might have the misfortune to be begotten by a wearer of the cloth. Of course, any man has a legal right to dispose of his wealth in the ways that seem best to him. But we cannot but regard such a disposition as this in the light of bigotry. Recently there was the case of a rich man who interfered from the tomb with the course of true love should it lead any of his children toward marriage with a Roman Catholic, and there was a similar anti-Protestant prohibition. The Morgan case is even less easy to understand. A man may dislike professors of religion, but it is unjust that he should fine his offspring for having other tastes.

It is in our mind that recently we said something rather nice about the Southport magistrates; now we are afraid we shall have to say something rather nasty. "A well-dressed woman," as the local reporter described her, was charged before them a few days ago, on remand, with purloining two ornaments from a local tradesman. "Mr. F. A. Jones, who defended, said that was one of the most distressing cases which had ever come before the bench. Both the lady and her husband were well connected, and in good positions. The accused was discharged." The lady was Mrs. Margaret Frater, of Cumberstone, near Barnard Castle. We are continually being reminded by thousands of readers that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor, apparently in the belief that we have never heard of it. Now the truth is, there is one law for all alike, only the rich are luckier in the magistrates they select for its administration. The poor, like the absent, are always wrong, for the curse of the poor is their poverty, and the blessedness of the rich is their great inheritance. It has always been so; how long it shall be so is on the knees of the gods. Such cases as this at Southport are not a reflection on the law, but an outrage on the impartial administration of the law, and farcify the oath of the magistracy to render justice indifferently between all the subjects of our Sovereign Lord the King. It is merely exhausting the obvious to say that if in similar circumstances the Southport magistrates had to execute judgment on a poor woman they would send her to gaol. We believe in mercy for all; but if there is to be a distinction, then in heaven's name let the poor have the greater share of as much as happens to be about at the time.

Mr. Spencer Leigh Hughes—the chosen (candidate) of Bermondsey—is a lively journalist, a good speaker, a pleasant companion, and an irrepressible story-teller, so that if Bermondsey does not elect him that will be his misfortune rather than his fault.

Why will medical men when called as witnesses—especially at inquests—use always the most bewildering technical terms? Of course the coroner has to pretend to know what they mean, but the jury seldom does. Especially is this so when one of those diseases that the profession is so fond of discovering before it has learnt thoroughly how to deal with the old familiar sorts effectively, is in question. At Southwark the other day a medical witness was prattling pleasantly about "pancreatitis," and, on being asked to explain, did so by saying that deceased was troubled with necrosis of the pancreas. He admitted eventually that even the wisest of his tribe knew very little about this disease. What was wrong with the dead subject of the inquiry apparently was that his sweetbreads were out of order, and he could not digest fat. It would have been quite easy to say this. But presumably the layman must be kept in his place.

Since when have magistrates been authorised to furnish cases for prosecutors? The Stipendiary of Manchester strikes us as being rather too much of a genius in this direction. The police charged two men with sleeping out, but as they were found in the cabin of a canal barge it would appear that instead of sleeping out they had slept in. That, however, by-the-way. The substantial and effective answer to the charge was that it is not an offence to sleep on, or in a canal barge, for a canal barge is not a place within the meaning of the Act; wherefore the magistrate had to dismiss the case. "He then observed"—we are quoting from the report—"that as the men had lit fires they could have been charged with stealing coal, or possibly with doing wilful damage." That hint was not lost upon the police. A week afterwards they re-arrested the men and brought them before the Stipendiary, on the lines he had suggested, to wit, "they had made fires, and it was stated that the cabin seats were subsequently found damaged. The men were each given a month's imprisonment." Evidently the Stipendiary who leads for the prosecution is to become a new terror to the wicked, and, for all we can say to the contrary, to the innocent also; if he cannot convict Weary Willie for sleeping in the swings he is going to give him a month for scraping the hair off the cocoanuts. We live in an inventive and a resourceful day.

Never, surely, can the landlords have found facts such stubborn things as when they run up against them in their opposition to the land clauses of the Budget. It is now recorded that the Willesden District Council, requiring an acre of land for an elementary school at Neasden, have approached the owner, who demands £1,500 for a site on which he is at present paying rates of £2 a year. Now if the land, on his own valuation, is worth £1,500—well, who specially is he that he should be paying less than a ha'penny in the £, anyhow?

Ex-Colonel Stockall can hardly complain that he has been severely dealt with at the Central Criminal Court. He bound and gagged himself on the premises of his firm, having previously opened safes and cleared out the jewellery and watches. On the arrival of the police he trumped up a story about three men having done the deed, received £2,977 as compensation from underwriters at Lloyd's, and ultimately disposed of some, if not all, of the goods alleged to have been stolen. Found out at last, he made a clean breast, and his whole demeanour since that time goes to show that his mental sufferings have been keen and his contrition sincere. All said, "the Recorder sentenced the accused to nine months' imprisonment in the second division, whereat prisoner appeared much relieved." And if he is not as relieved as he appeared to be, all we can say is that he is singularly inappreciative of the mercy of the judge who tried him.

A correspondent draws our attention to the fact that on behalf of the promoters of a bazaar held in connection with St. John's Church, at Hensingham, application was made to the Whitehaven magistrates for a licence to sell beer, spirits, and wines, and granted. Well, what of it? Luncheons and dinners were served; besides, we have yet to learn that it is more wrongful to sell wine and whisky to visitors at bazaars than it is to sell them ginger pop or worked slippers. Surely a parson may be a good Christian without being a fanatical teetotaler. Perhaps our correspondent is of the opinion of the Scottish dame who once spied her leetle meenister takin' a wee drappie. He reminded her that Christ Himself sometimes took wine with His friends. "Weel," she said, "I ken that, but I dinna think the mair o' Him ayther for it."

Referring to the inventive faculty of journalists who receive information by cable, a New Zealand paper relates an amusing if somewhat ancient anecdote. An unexpanded message ran as follows:—"Commons last night discussion Home Rule angry scene between Hartington and Parnell. Audacity Tyrone Lobster." The last three words referred to the result of a race, but the sub-editor was evidently not a sportsman, for he devoted scare headlines to the "extraordinary speech by Lord Hartington," who was alleged to have declared that "Mr. Parnell possessed the audacity of a Tyrone lobster." This reminds us of an anecdote related by the well-known traveller, Mr. A. Savage Landor. A telegram reached an Indian newspaper baldly announcing: "Capture of a savage landor in Thibet." This produced a long article about the habits of the landor, and the public were informed that "this savage beast, which has so long eluded the pursuit of naturalists and sportsmen, has at last been run to earth in the mountains of Thibet."

"I have been out of work for twenty-five years," exclaimed a tramp when hauled up before the Heywood magistrates a few days since, "and if I had known what I know now I would have been out for fifty-five years." It does not much surprise us to hear him say so. Most of the other great philosophers seem to have had no visible means of subsistence also.

Whereas at the last meeting of the Ware Board of Guardians the reporters asserted their rights under the "Admission of the Press Act," by entering the board-room, and whereas it was at once moved, seconded and carried by the Guardians that the minutes should be read *in camera*, and whereas when the reporters were again admitted a report was not presented as to alleged scandals at the workhouse, it is hereby assumed that the secret inquiry concerning the same, mentioned in a recent issue, is not completed. Our patience is inexhaustible.

Miss Charlesworth gave some significant evidence during her examination in bankruptcy. "I was paid," she said, "£400 by a weekly paper for an interview lasting a quarter-of-an-hour. I neither read nor dictated the articles, and I did not read them at all." We fear that this American method of journalism is on the increase, and we think some steps ought to be taken to discourage it. Of course, in the case of a person like Miss Charlesworth it really does not matter very much whether she wrote her articles or had them invented for her. But when a similar system is applied to foreign politics and to matters affecting the personal honour of important people, a great deal of mischief may ensue. In private life and, to a certain extent, in public affairs, we cease to have any further dealings with a man when we discover him to be a deliberate liar. Why should not the same code of morals apply to journalism? But how few papers there would then be left for us to read!

It is suggested that the Metropolitan Division of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations should arrange with the person who drafts their handbills to be more careful how he handles the style, quality, title or distinction of political notabilities. A leaflet before us relating to a meeting in Lambeth Baths announces as the chief attraction of the evening "The Right Hon. *Mr.* Walter Long, M.P." What would happen if the author had to announce the appearance of a noble Lord? The leader of the party in the Upper House may awake one fine morning to find himself described as "The Marquess of Lansdowne, Esq."

There is this to be said for Mr. Lloyd George: he does keep the fire going under his boiler. The Budget may be right or wrong, according to the view one takes of it, but undoubtedly he recommends it to the country with a courage of conviction, an audacity of phrase, and a vividness of illustration which has had no equal regarded as popular oratory since Mr. Chamberlain sold his Radical birthright for a mess of Tory pottage. A speech of Mr. Asquith, for instance, is solid ice; one of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's is liquid blood. Beside the Lloyd George orations of Limehouse and Newcastle, those of Mr. Balfour at Birmingham and Lord Rosebery at Glasgow seem timid. Whether, however, Mr. Lloyd George's speeches are of lasting advantage to the Government is another matter.

It appears that Sir John Brunner, M.P., has intimated his intention not to seek re-election on account of Lady Brunner's ill-health and his own private engagements. He adds that he does not "intend" to go to the House of Lords. This is delicious!

Ladies and gentlemen who have been in the habit of taking their shampoos at Harrod's will be comforted to hear that the firm have put tetrachloride on their black list, so that in future they can even have *Status lymphaticus* without being the subject of a coroner's inquest. If the object of the Treasury prosecution was merely to obtain long reports in all the papers for the due warning of the national hair artists it has unquestionably been achieved, but even so we protest against these elaborate and costly proceedings for manslaughter being commenced on evidence which the Treasury knew all along would not support the charge. That anybody with *Status lymphaticus* takes a risk in being shampooed with tetrachloride we now know, but having shampooed thousands of people in clouds of that gaseous vapour without any previous ill-results, Harrod's could hardly have been aware that they were engaged in criminal operations—being, in fact, the potential "manslaughterers" of everybody they shampooed. Under the new order, Treasury prosecutions are sometimes launched with a foolhardiness almost bordering on wild irresponsibility.

For several weeks past a travelling theatre has been giving performances at Rye, apparently much to the entertainment of the townspeople. The local authorities, however, have now withdrawn the licence, and this, in spite of petitions signed by hundreds of ratepayers. Apparently many of the members take the view that theatrical performances are liable to endanger the morals of Rye. The theatre closed, the town is quite without amusements, and the only place where the working classes are able to spend a few hours of well-earned leisure in the evenings is the pub. "Although I like a glass of beer," says a reader, "I don't want to spend all the evening in a public-house. Yet what is one to do?" Get a new and broader-minded set of town councillors.

The new recipient of the Thistle certainly looks as though he had received an appropriate reward.

Many people think, and several do not hesitate to say, that the man of Aberdeen is the hardest nut to crack outside Jerusalem. Certain it is that his bawbees have come so slowly into the treasury of the Morningfield Hospital for Incurables that 38 beds have had to be closed.

Why is it that the Post Office obliges us to put stamps on our telegrams? It is a great nuisance, particularly when we are encumbered with gloves and the alleged dampers are parched. No doubt it is a red-tape arrangement devised for the complication of official accounts. If we merely paid our pennies and the amount were registered by the clerks, only one ledger or process would be necessary, whereas, at present, there must be all sorts of statistics about stamps as well as about telegrams.

We are sorry to hear that Servian, and perhaps Austrian, intrigues are still going on in Montenegro. It will be remembered that the Servian Government organised a plot to wipe out the dynasty, but that, when Austria annexed Bosnia, friendly relations were resumed. The conspirators, however, are still in prison, and the Servians are endeavouring to stir up discontent among their friends with a view to the deposition of the wise and patriotic ruler of the Principality.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

Two workmen were recently overheard discussing the Budget. Number one observed that he thought it pressed unduly on the poor, and referred to the cost of maintaining the Royal Family. To which came the immediate rejoinder: "You ain't read it or you would know there's to be a *tax on royalties.*" Collapse of workman number one.

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

THE VICAR OF PAINSWICK, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, WHO PROPOSES TO PUNISH CASES WHERE A CHILD IS BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK OR PREMATURELY AFTER MARRIAGE BY SUSPENDING THE PARENTS FROM ALL CHURCH PRIVILEGES.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!

OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.

WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For stating in the report of an accident that "half-past the bottom her feet slipped and she slided on shortness of breath,"

THE BRISTOL ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advising a correspondent who has lost her husband to "rub pumice-stone very gently on the affected place,"

THE SUNDAY COMPANION
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "It is hoped to have a 'Baby Show' if the churchwardens of the Church of England Men's Society will render assistance,"

THE EAST DULWICH PARISH MAGAZINE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising "Lounge suits, LAST SEVEN DAYS,"

SPIERS AND POND'S
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that "with the exception of a tear in his TROUSER *leg, Mr. Humphreys fortunately escaped unhurt,"*

THE DAILY MIRROR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that "other toasts were given, and all were most enthusiastically DRUNK,"

THE BLACKBURN WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advising a farm labourer to "stay at home on Sunday and go to Church,"

THE MAYOR OF IPSWICH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "many widows and orphans had been CAUSED *through the pluck and courage of lifeboatmen,"*

THE BRADFORD DAILY ARGUS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following report, "Tables were smashed, people were pushed and knocked down, and forty-three watches and several diamond necklaces were stolen; Signor Caruso has seldom met with such overpowering success,"

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "If stamps are NOT *enclosed, they will be destroyed,"*

THE BYSTANDER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a short story in "The Modern Man" that "she STOOD *erect in exactly the posture into which she had* FALLEN,"

MR. R. D. CROMBIE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "shortly afterwards the MURDERED *man expressed his intention of seeking the prisoner,"*

A WRITER IN "STORIES FOR ALL"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising: "For sale—Fancy silk bonnets for BABIES OF VARIOUS DESIGNS AND COLOURS,"

THE BOMBAY FOOTWEAR CO.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a man "was the best half-back they had seen for some TIME TO COME,"

THE DUNDEE COURIER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

OPEN LETTERS, POST-CARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Don Alfonso XIII., Madrid.

Sir,—You have, I think, about done for yourself this time. The indignation of all the civilized world has been aroused by the judicial murder of Señor Ferrer. In spite of the fact that everybody knows he had nothing to do with the recent troubles at Barcelona; in spite of the piteous appeals sent you by his unhappy daughter; taking no account of the man's great distinction, popularity, and nobility of character, you had no hesitation in deciding that he should die. If he had been killed in hot blood, there might have been some sort of excuse for you, but many weeks have been allowed to elapse since the riots, and justice as well as mercy required that he should be allowed a fair trial now that Catalonia has been temporarily pacified. I fully believe that your officials tortured your unfortunate victim in prison, for that is an accepted method of barbarism in modern, constitutional Spain. But I am moved to supreme indignation by the authorised version of the mental anguish with which his last hours were embittered. Some thirteen hours before his murder, he was taken to the chapel of a creed in which he did not believe, and was subjected to offensive ministrations. Every sort of mummery was indulged in to increase the lugubrious effect. An attempt was made to rig him out in a grotesque garment emblazoned with a great white cross, as though he were a heretic in the days of the Inquisition. Six yellow candles on the altar feebly lightened the gloom, and the night was passed with an accompaniment of Latin prayers to the Diety whom he conscientiously denied. Even when he had been pinned against a wall in the presence of a firing party, masqueraders endeavoured to force him to kiss a crucifix, and his last despairing words were: "Let me die in peace." Believe me, your crime is also a blunder. By your cruel act, more has been done to fan the flames of revolution than by many butcheries of innocent people in the streets of Spanish cities. If your evil reign is remembered at all in history, it will be not so much for the loss of the last of your country's colonies as for the cynical cruelty you have displayed. Alfonso the Merciless!

John Bull.

To Lord Hugh Cecil, ex-M.P.

My Lord,—You have hitherto posed as one of the very few independent politicians in this country, desirous of placing principles above party, and I quite agree with your condemnation of what you justly call the "obsequious obedience" of party hacks. But you give the show away when you state that it is now your duty to support Tariff Reform because opponents of the Budget are practically all supporters of it. You imply that Protection is less dangerous than Socialism, evidently forgetting that Protection is itself a form of Socialism. Well, you have made your peace with your party, and I suppose we shall soon hear that the caucus is going to withdraw opposition to your candidature. But you have forfeited a certain amount of the respect which you have hitherto commanded by an unswerving honesty, and I would suggest to your new allies that they had better be careful how far they impose implicit confidence in you for the future. John Bull.

To Frederick Mead, Esq., Stipendiary, Marlborough Street Police Court, London.

Sir,—I regret to note that you have joined the ranks of the magisterial *féroces*. The offence nominally charged against Margaret Silsey, a dentist's assistant, was that she had fraudulently altered a bill, and thereby obtained food of the value of 1s. 2d. from an Oxford Street caterer. She was arrested, and kept in gaol a week on remand, when the actual charge formulated against her, to use your own words, was that "she stole a ticket worth a farthing." There was nothing otherwise against her character. In these circumstances, sir, the obvious thing for you was to deal with her under the First Offenders Act. You didn't do the obvious thing. You did the brutal thing, the unjust thing, the scandalous thing, and the intolerable thing, for, remarking that "tradesmen carrying on their business must be protected," you sent her to gaol for two months. I have nothing more to say to you, except that, judging *you* by this sentence, you ought never to occupy the judgment seat again. What else is to be said to you will probably be said by the Home Secretary. Or perhaps he will say nothing, and mark his contempt for the ferocity by releasing the woman at once. We cannot have justice measured out according to the state of the magisterial liver.

John Bull.

To the Magistrates, Petty Sessions House, Newport Pagnell.

Gentlemen,—It would be difficult to find a more convincing case of the gross injustice done to the poor under the present law of divorce than that of Arthur Edward Chandler, on whom you executed judgment in such a cross-eyed way at your last sittings. Chandler's wife went off with another man, who, apparently, subsequently deserted her. At any rate, she wrote to her husband asking what he would do for her, and his reply was that he would keep the three children of which he was the father, but not her or her youngest child. The woman thereupon took her children into the workhouse. The Guardians commenced proceedings against Chandler for neglecting them, and brought him before you. His defence was not a legal one, gentlemen, as you reminded him, but your reminder was grotesque to a degree. I can almost see your tongues in your cheeks as you laid down the law. "The magistrates informed him that he must prove his wife's misconduct, and get a divorce, otherwise he was liable for her maintenance." That is to say, this poor beggar, who has been out of work for a long time, and is partly a cripple, and is actually being supported by a sister, is to find the money to commence a divorce suit, and bring his witnesses all the way from Newport Pagnell to London. Failing because of his poverty, he is not only liable for maintenance of his worthless wife, but liable to be prosecuted by every Board of Guardians to whom she chooses to flee for shelter, and liable to be sent to gaol for twenty-one days, your actual sentence in the case. In a word, just as long as he cannot afford the present costly process of divorce, will this woman be able to drag him from one prison to another.

John Bull.

To the Guardians of the Poor, Clayton, Yorkshire.

My Dear Friends,—How are you getting on? I shall be disappointed if you have not made yourselves thoroughly comfy by this time—nice new board room, interior executed in fumed wainscot oak, upholstering in maroon Morocco leather, Axminster carpets, lovely wall paper, everything up to date, and only £1,700 the lot, paid out of the rates. But one of your honoured constituents, writing to me, strenuously complains of your squandering his substance on what he calls palatial drawing-rooms. Don't you think better use could have been made of the money?

John Bull.

To the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., Highbury, Birmingham.

My Dear Joe,—A man without enemies is without friends. You have enemies many, and they stick to you; you have friends many, and you stick to them. I have always known there never was a better friend than Joe Chamberlain, and I like to hear of your going up to the home of your old chum Jesse, ill as you are, to present an illuminated address to him on behalf of his agricultural admirers. I think of you often, and ever more kindly as the shadows fall. John Bull.

To Lord Robert Cecil, M.P.

Dear Lord Robert,—Your family does not appear to be particularly fortunate just at present. After all the ingenious intrigues with which you thought you had brushed away your Protectionist opponent, it is certainly rather hard that an unauthorised Richmond should appear in the field. I am afraid you will have to execute a double-shuffle like that of your distinguished brother. Meanwhile, why not join the John Bull League?

John Bull.

Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Office.

Why didn't you intervene on behalf of Ferrer?

John Bull.

Lord Joicey, Durham.

The old story. You go about denouncing the Government which gave you your title only a few years ago.

John Bull.

H. M. Hyndman.

You only injured a good cause by talking nonsense about the abolition of all clericalism and capitalism. I protest no less strongly than you against the judicial crime which has taken place in Spain, but your wild and whirling words have the effect of arousing sympathy for the people you denounce. Do shut up.

Bull.

Dr. Charles Heydemann, Fleet Street, London.

Sorry hear your opinion that modern women have lost power to love. Note from Suffragette proceedings at Newcastle, however, she has acquired power of throwing bricks.

Bull.

DEATH OF STIGGINS.

A CALL TO ARMS!

By H. SHERIDAN-BICKERS.

The pig-tub of Puritanism has become the cesspool of Cant! The canker of the Kill-Joy has assumed such alarming proportions that the manliness and good sense of our nation is at length being aroused. To the stagnant reservoir of national impotence and of individual irresponsibility—filled from the poisoned wells of political prudery and prurient-minded Puritanism—the John Bull League comes as a national filter-bed.

Convention has slain the souls of more men and women than drink or immorality. It is the slave of Mammon and the monarch of Respectability; and "respectability," though the least of the virtues, is the most strictly observed!

Wavering ever between the neurotic and the erotic, Society fortifies itself against a soul-starving Sabbath by a sensation-sodden Saturday. The old Puritan ideals of manliness and simplicity are dead, and Puritanism—however healthy, vigorous and effective in the times that are past—is to-day the creed of the puerile, the palsied and the prurient.

To the dirty mind all things are dirty! The English Puritan of to-day takes refuge from a self-made bugbear of moral chaos in a mental suicide. They have somehow persuaded themselves that to remove their supposed religious and political restraints on human nature would be to inaugurate an era of unbridled licentiousness. They would have us believe that their Puritan doctrines of Self-Crucifixion and Self-Distrust are the sole bars which prevent us from wallowing in filth like swine; and that to get rid, for instance, of the ascetic observances and spiritual flagellations of a British Sabbath would be fraught with some serious moral peril of our race. They think so ill of our kind that they imagine we are only restrained by silly tabooes and puerile superstitions from the filthiest excesses.

THE PURITAN PIG-TUB.

Disbelieving in the inherent goodness of man, the wretched lives of the prurient pigs of a pharisaical Puritanism are eked out in self-crucifixion and mutual repression. They sit on their heads lest knowledge should bring confusion. They starve their souls in fear lest their pain-loving Deity should send them to an eternal Hell. They worship their God with painful exercises.

The Stigginses' Sabbath is the worst enemy of true religion. Nor are all the Pecksniffs of our modern Puritanism to be found only among professing Christians. I know of no object more abject than the Puritan agnostic.

CUSTOM AND CLERICALISM

have proscribed the over-worked clerk and the underpaid labourer from spending his one day of rest in healthy recreation or congenial self-improvement. No! He must adorn himself in the sartorial abominations of a top-hat, a stiff collar, and a black suit, and go to church. Some, it is true, go willingly to "watch and pray," but how many go to watch? Thus, church-going has become merely a habit; and after fifty even virtue may become a habit! Saints and hypocrites alike go to church; the only distinction between them being that the former live *for* their religion, the latter *by* it. And what congregations do, custom and clericalism cause to be gathered together! Verily, among them we can always find some of those charitably-minded Sabbatarians who can spot a satyr in any saint. This, indeed, would seem to be the particular *métier* of that Puritanism which at present sits enthroned in most of the "seats of the mighty." The Puritanism of our episcopal and Parliamentary rulers is, of course, *virtuous*—"virtuous" to the verge of indecency!

Undeveloped in body, mind, and spirit, the Puritans in England have prostituted religion until it has become little more than a hypocritical combination of self-righteousness and self-abasement—the extremes of human folly. All really ennobling, elevating, and self-developing agencies have been steadily refused by them. Sunday is given over to the vanities of their ceremonials and their fly-blown shibboleths. And down to our own times, in this our own Britain, these Sunday observance ascetics have taught us that love and happiness are illusions to be got over once and for all in early life, and relegated thenceforth to the back parlour of existence, so that the mind may be left free for the really serious affairs of alternate Psalm-smiting and small retail trading! To those who have spent the week in labour for a livelihood in field or factory, office or workshop, the Churches make no appeal; and the State at the same time allows them practically nothing to do, and nowhere to go!

ASCETIC ANOMALIES.

What humbug it all is! Voluntary agencies—like the admirable Sunday League—are *permitted* to supply us with vocal and orchestral entertainment, but all such self-supporting agencies are supposed to preserve as *non-secular* an atmosphere as possible. Hotels, restaurants, and other places of refreshment are allowed to be opened *on certain hours only*, as if these hours of the day had been consecrated to the Devil. The Pecksniffs in Parliament recently attempted to carry a Sunday Closing Bill, though there is more danger in Puritanism than ever was found in the "Pub."!

Theatres are closed on Sundays, but dramatic societies can give public performances of plays on Sunday, which have been banned by the Censor as "unfit for presentation" on the ordinary days of the week!

The Churches preach a Day of Rest, and their "flocks" are carried off to distant parts of the country by the enterprise of private companies and individuals who promote "Cheap Trips." Though public agitation has not long prevailed on the Government to sanction the opening of public art galleries and museums, the Exhibitions at the White City and elsewhere are closed on Sundays. What is thus recognised as good for museums containing the works of the dead is considered bad for exhibitions of the best works of the living!

To open the barren spaces in London, dignified by the name of "*Parks*," is legitimate and "Christian," but to open the beautiful grounds of the Exhibition on Sunday would apparently have been wicked and Pagan.

THE LEAGUE—AND ITS MISSION.

Against the cant and humbug of Pecksniffs in Parliament, Chadbands in the Church, and Stigginses in Society, comes the League.

We, of the John Bull League, therefore, may take our inspiration from those glowing words of Bradlaugh:—"Let us feel that we are *alive:* not on our knees, cringing, creeping, but walking on our feet, erect, unflinching. Let us aid each other, and grow strong by each other's help." We take the field to replace the idol of self-repression by the ideal of *self-expression*. The League comes to claim for every man and woman—aye, and for every child—the right, as it is the duty, to develop all their own faculties—mental, moral, and physical—freely and fully in all directions, without fear or restriction. Here, surely, is an aim for all; an aim which will make us all wiser, happier, and more useful citizens. It would make each in the end more helpful to humanity. To be sound in wind and limb, to be healthy of body and mind, to be educated, to be emancipated, to be beautiful, and to be self-reliant—these are the ends towards which all should strive, and by the attainment of which all would be happier in themselves and more useful to others. Thus shall we sow the seeds of blessing in our own time, and leave nought but the seed of blessing in the times that are to follow.

THE GOSPEL OF SELF-RELIANCE.

Let me then exhort first each of my comrades of the League to *believe in yourself—and your belief will be justified*. Success is the inevitable reward of the man who believes in himself, no matter how long it may be delayed. Be active and earnest, that you may respect yourself, and earn the respect of others. Self-belief brings self-reliance. *Don't shirk responsibility; be proud of it.* Rather let us strive to gain more; for the more responsibility that is given to a man the more he will try to live up to it. *Restrictive legislation is the worst form of political reaction.* If the law treats persons as children or as criminals, they will behave as such. "Thou shalt not" in legislation has invariably proved a direct incentive to wrong-doing, and all Puritanical legislation which treats the people as vicious or irresponsible is as self-destructive in purpose as it is futile in practice. Let us teach men rather to believe in their inherent goodness, not in their inherent sin. Don't always be looking for the bad—like those prudish pedants whose bellies are swollen with the overboiled spinach of their sploshy "virtues." Seek the "soft spot," which is in the heart of even the lowest and most abandoned of human kind. Remember, *pessimism is poison, optimism life*. Above all, be self-reliant, but not self-righteous; for in the need of mutual aid is the very security of love. Keep to the high-roads of all-round self-development and whole-hearted mutual aid. Let that twin purpose be the motive power of each member of our League. Let us adventure fearlessly in our fight for Progress against Puritanism, for Reliance against Self-Righteousness, strong in the consciousness of the moral dignity and value of our creed, and joyous in the knowledge that:—

"Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control—
These three alone lead Life to sov'ran power."

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

All Arrangements for To-night's Great Meeting—Full Programme—Unprecedented Demand for Seats.

To-day (Thursday) is the day—the day of the inaugural meeting of the John Bull League. The Albert Hall will be packed, from ceiling to floor, with an interested and earnest audience. Twenty thousand people will have travelled from north, south, east and west in order to be present, and 20,000 more, who have unsuccessully applied for tickets, will listen in various places to an electrophonic record of the proceedings.

Members of Parliament and other public men, of all shades of opinion, sect and creed, will be amongst the gathering, watching with interest, and doubtless with deep thought, the remarkable spectacle. Never before has a great meeting been held for such a purpose. What is that purpose? To stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness from our public life; to sound the death-knell of the professional politician; to inaugurate an era of common sense, business government for a common sense, business people.

And all on the initiative of a weekly journal not yet four years old! Verily, there must be vitality in the movement.

And now for details. As already stated, the seats have been applied for many times over. We have done our best to apportion them fairly, and have begged any recipient who may be unable at the last moment to come to the meeting to be sure to return his ticket.

In this way—and in this way alone—we may have a few seats available at the last moment, and readers should apply for these at our offices TO-DAY.

The proceedings will commence at 8.30 sharp. At that time the President will take the chair. Mr. Leo Stormont will then sing the League Song, accompanied by the Organ and Military Band.

The President will then deliver his address, concluding about ten o'clock, when a resolution will be submitted approving of the objects of the League. This will be moved by a London delegate, seconded by a provincial one, and supported by Miss Irene Miller—on behalf of the women members.

League badges will be on sale, one shilling each, and also the full music and words of the League song, price 6d. The music and words of the chorus will be distributed free amongst the audience.

It has been quite impossible to reply individually to the thousands of persons who have sent suggestions or expressions of goodwill. We can only thank them, and assure them of our appreciation.

For the benefit of new readers, we repeat that the objects of the League are to stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness, to introduce common-sense business methods into the government of the country, and to create a robust public opinion in the minds of an independent and self-reliant people. In the pursuit of these aims the League will know neither Party nor Sect.

Those wishing to be enrolled MUST sign and forward to the secretary the form printed below:—

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

—:o:—

To be cut out and forwarded to the Secretary,

JOHN BULL LEAGUE,
67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

THE SPANISH MARTYR.

By Herbert Vivian.

I am not yet an Anarchist, though Anarchism is, after all, only an exaggeration of Individualism, which has always been my creed. But I submit that even alleged Anarchists are entitled to a fair trial, and that even martial law ought to avoid the methods of Mr. Justice Lynch. I confess, also, that I desire the exile of Don Alfonso XIII., who usurps the throne of Spain. As I am a Carlist, I cannot be accused of anti-clericalism.

Murder.

But it appears to me that Señor Ferrer has been murdered no less deliberately than the Duc d'Enghien or King Charles the Martyr. I do not compare the horror of his death with that of King Alexander and Queen Draga, who were mutilated and robbed, but I suggest that water-brained Alfonso is scarcely less blood-stained than drunken Peter Karageorgevitch.

An Innocent Victim.

A little grey man, with a grey face and a grey beard, eyes shining like Aldebaran, sober and incisive of speech, a dreamer, a philosopher, a Socialist, tender and kind. A teacher, doubtless, of ideas which we dislike. But obviously innocent, transparently innocent. Even a packed tribunal did not convict him of inciting Morales to throw bombs.

A Farcical Trial.

The details of the Court Martial read almost like a chapter of "Alice in Wonderland." The counsel for the prosecution asked for the death penalty without attempting to prove a single fact against the prisoner. He contented himself with the general affirmation that the Barcelona riots were inspired by Ferrer's school. The witnesses were equally vague. One of them had heard somebody say that Ferrer was responsible for the whole commotion. A policeman came forward and said: "He founded a school for the manufacture of Anarchism." All the others made statements which were either contradictory or improbable. A priest said that Ferrer sent out armed rebels from the village of Montgat, but the Syndic of Montgat swore that this was the one district in which tranquillity was undisturbed. Another deposed that Ferrer subscribed money towards the sacking of a convent, as though money could ever be required for the encouragement of loot. Another asserted that Ferrer led a band of twenty-seven incendiaries along the Rambla to Barcelona, but the three thousand persons who have been imprisoned in connection with the riots did not even know Ferrer by sight. He has never been a mob orator or an active propagandist. His temperament was gentle and calm. He has always discouraged violent action, believing that his views will be more satisfactorily disseminated by teaching and writing.

Ferrer's Life.

With one or two exceptions, his life has been that of a peaceful demagogue. He was originally a railway inspector with a salary of £60 a year. Then he became an inn-keeper, but he was not very successful. Then for a short time he was private secretary to the republican leader Zorilla. After this he eked out a precarious existence by teaching Spanish to foreigners. Among his pupils was a lady named Meunié. She did not share his religious or political views, but offered him money to start an asylum for infants. Before this could be arranged she died, and left him £30,000, with which he started the Modern School. Just before he left Paris for this purpose, he had a violent scene with his wife, who fired five shots at him with a revolver, but only wounded him slightly in the head. He obtained a judicial separation, and she went off to live with a Russian prince. The Modern School was an immense success. Pupils came from everywhere, and branches had to be founded in other towns beside Barcelona. The school was closed in 1906, after the attempt on the life of Don Alfonso, and all the books were confiscated. The pretext for this was that Morales, who threw the bomb, had been connected with the school. But Ferrer and Morales were rivals for the affections of Señora Soledad de Villafranca and hated each other with deadly hatred.

And Death.

It is difficult to understand why Ferrer should have been singled out as a scapegoat. He was, no doubt, a leader of revolutionary thought, but the barbarity of his punishment will do far more to spread his opinions than any efforts which he was capable of making.

The fact that a safety razor blade soon loses its edge gives you no concern if you use the

AutoStrop SAFETY RAZOR

You simply insert the strop in the razor

—move the razor to and fro—and the blade, reversing itself automatically at the end of each stroke, strops itself. The keen edge so easily and rapidly secured shaves you smoothly and luxuriously, and you avoid continual outlay for new blades.

You cannot strop it wrongly.

Nothing to take apart to strop or clean.

The Standard Outfit consists of quadruple silver-plated, self-stropping razor; one dozen specially tested lancet-steel blades; one horse-hide strop, the whole contained in handsome leather case, size 2 ins. by 3¼ ins. The price complete is **21/-** NET.

Your dealer will gladly demonstrate the AutoStrop Safety Razor to you.

Money returned if not satisfied after 30 days' trial.

Illustrated description free. Address Dept. M.

AutoStrop Safety Razor Co., Ltd.

61, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C. Also at Dublin, Paris, New York and Montreal.

A SLIPPERY PARSON.

Mr. Arthur May, of the Accountant's Department, Admiralty, has made a complaint to us of the conduct of the Rev. George Alexander Dunlop, curate of St. Paul's, Dock Street, London Docks. Mr. May says that in August of last year, Mr. Dunlop entered as his sub-tenant at 34, Gloucester Road, Kew. The first rent due was paid after considerable delay. The Christmas quarter was only got after distraint. Mr. Dunlop left the house on March 6th, and only paid the March quarter after considerable pressure had been put upon him by his vicar. Mr. Dunlop still owes Mr. May 13s. 9d. for Inhabited House Duty, and for which Mr. May is summoning him.

These facts in themselves would not perhaps warrant our publicly referring to the matter. It does not necessarily follow that because a man cannot pay his rent he deserves to be pilloried, but we have reason to believe that Mr. Dunlop is systematic in omitting to meet his obligations. Very recently the papers contained a report of a case in the Shoreditch County Court, where a milkman sued Mr. Dunlop for £3 11s. 9d. for milk supplied, and several Kew tradesmen have complained that they cannot get money from Mr. Dunlop due to them by him. He seems to go from place to place, as, for example, from the London Docks to Kew, changing his address when his credit as a clergyman is exhausted.

Mr. May wrote to complain of Mr. Dunlop's conduct to the Bishop of London, his diocesan. He received the following reply from the Bishop, written by his chaplain, Mr. Gillson :—

> The Bishop of London asks me to acknowledge your letter and to say that he is asking the Bishop of Stepney to enquire into the matter for him. The Bishop is most sorry that you should have been troubled in this way.

This letter is dated June 19th last. In due course the Bishop of Stepney wrote to Mr. May under date July 9th, as follows :—

> The Bishop of London asked me to go into the matter of your dispute with Mr. Dunlop. I have read the enclosed papers and have also seen Mr. Dunlop more than once, with the result that I do not think there is any need for me to intervene in the matter.

The Bishop of Stepney apparently takes a tolerant view of very doubtful actions.

Mr. May had previously written to Rev. E. G. Parry, vicar of St. Paul's, Dock Street, London Docks, asking him to put pressure on Mr. Dunlop (his curate) to pay the money due to him, and in reply Mr. Parry wrote as follows :—

> I am sorry Mr. Dunlop has given you trouble. His address is 36, Chadmore Road, Clapham Common. I shall give him (to-morrow) his quarter's cheque at the rate of £200 a year, including, of course, the £30 from the Sailors' Home, and all of which I give him, although I could do with it myself. He ought to be well able to pay you, and I advise you to write him a strong letter to-day.

As we have said, Mr. May has, after much trouble and expense, got the money due to him with the exception of the 13s. 9d. for Inhabited House Duty, for which he is now suing. It seems to us that Mr. Dunlop brings discredit upon the Church of which he is a minister by ignoring, as long as it is possible to ignore them, his financial obligations. It is no doubt a delicate matter for a Bishop to intervene, but we should have thought that the circumstances warranted, and even required, some plain words from the Bishop of Stepney to Mr. Dunlop.

THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY.

A Manchester correspondent sends us a copy of a letter received from this company by a Manchester firm who purchased a number of Registers during the past three years. The letter, which is signed by the General Manager, runs as follows :—

> Referring to the reduction in the price of the cash registers which you bought this year, enclosed herewith you will find cheque value £41, in settlement of the difference. Kindly acknowledge receipt. Please note that this money is paid out of a private account, and the company is in no way liable or responsible. I am simply making this statement in order that the company may be covered against any possible liability.

The price of the two Registers referred to in the letter was £67, and the company refund £41!

"LLOYD, McGREGOR AND CO."

In our issue of September 4th we directed attention to the rogue who was trading under this title, and in our last issue we illustrated the gullibility of the public by narrating the attempt of a man to borrow £10 in order that he might hand it over to Lloyd, McGregor and Co., in the belief that having done so he would be permitted to draw upon them to the extent of £100. We have exposed many frauds, but we do not remember a more crude and clumsy one than that for which the man trading as Lloyd, McGregor and Co. was responsible. It was the crudest of crude attempts to fleece the public, but crude as it was it succeeded to some extent. Happily John Carmody, the man who traded as Lloyd MacGregor and Co., has now been laid by the heels. Tried at the Old Bailey on Wednesday last for obtaining money by false pretences, he was found guilty and sentenced to nine months' hard labour—a quite inadequate sentence, by the way. The Recorder described his offences as "grave frauds," yet he thinks nine months is sufficient punishment! In the course of the case the prosecuting Counsel, Mr. Muir, told the Court that Carmody had been "astute enough to induce stockbrokers—even outside brokers—to open accounts and speculate at their risk without depositing any money at all." Carmody began his career as an office boy for a firm of stockbrokers in the City two years ago. Having stolen £60 he decamped, and early in the present year took an office in Ludgate Hill, where in the first instance he traded as the Anglo-American Exchange, Ltd. Afterwards, and when he came under our observation, he was known as "Lloyd, McGregor and Co, stock and share dealers and general bankers."

"HOW WE PLANNED!"

THE "PROFIT AND PLEASURE" BAIT.

We have received the following letter, which speaks for itself :—

> I have a son fourteen years old, a telegraph boy in the Post Office, who is helping to share the burden of existence, through his father being out of work for the past eighteen months, and, wishing to help more, he saw the *Profit and Pleasure* bait, and skilfully put together the portrait of Lord Roberts and showed it to me. Not wishing to damp his ardour, I gave him 2d. for stamps to send it in, although every penny valued a shilling to us. Needless to relate how cheerfully he gave up all his tips to make up 3s. 0d. subscription, when the beautiful certificate received assured him, and us (in letters of gold), he had won a prize of perhaps £100 at least. All we had to do now was to wait till November for the cash.
>
> Oh! how we planned what we were going to do. My dear boy was going to set up his delicate sister in business to help make her life in living easier, and so on, and on, we soared, until this morning the said sister saw your article on the swindlers in John Bull of October 2nd, and posted it right away. Having read it we are certainly wiser, but it has cost us dearly, and left us sadder and poorer without hope, and his father still out of employment, with a good character, active, steady, healthy and willing to work. Age 50. Business a failure; lost all after a life's struggle; bearing it as best we can, like hundreds, I may say thousands, in these times.

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF NORWICH.

In our issue of September 18th we had an Open Letter addressed to the Chief Constable of Norwich. It referred to the case of "the hungry warehousemen on tramp for work," who found on their way to Watton a calico bag with some pieces of food in it, and who were arrested and treated very badly by the police. We said it was "a shameful and scandalous exhibition"—as it was; but we are now assured that the Chief Constable of Norwich—a very good fellow, as described to us—had nothing to do with it. The police concerned were the county police, who have a station in Norwich, and of course Mr. Winch is not in any way responsible for their doings. We much regret the confusion which has arisen.

£5,000 GIGANTIC PRIZE COMPETITION
See Page 555.

THE CAXTON BALZAC.

THE ONLY COMPLETE AND UNEXPURGATED EDITION EVER ISSUED IN ENGLAND.

A Remarkable Publishing Enterprise.

No fact in the literary history of the time is more encouraging to those who are interested in the development of sound literary taste than the steady progress of the fame of Balzac during the past few years. With the celebration of the Balzac Centenary there began one of those strange literary awakenings for which it is not easy to account. English readers became anxious to read Balzac. But the demand was for the complete text, for a just translation that should give the works of the Author as they were written, in all their integrity and without gloss, change, or expurgation.

Balzac was at once the greatest of all novelists, and one of the most remarkable men who ever lived. He saw all Life, all Character, and all happenings simply as raw material to be manufactured into stories. He studied humanity and the machinery of society, and was himself at once a realist and a visionary—"first among the great, highest among the best," as Victor Hugo said of him.

Balzac never idealised, he drew men and women as they are. And so his novels are meant for the strong, and they make their special and distinct appeal to the sincere soul.

THE EXQUISITE ILLUSTRATIONS.

The issue in English of the only complete and unexpurgated edition of the works of Balzac by the Caxton Publishing Company is, therefore, an event the importance of which will be fully understood by the book-buyer who has knowledge of book values. This edition is exquisitely illustrated by great French artists, whose names are a guarantee of their ability to embody the very spirit of the author. The fact that the originals of these fine pictures were exhibited in the Salon is in itself sufficient proof of their excellence. There are 265 full-page plates in all; of these fifty-two are etchings printed from the copper plates.

Type, binding, and paper have all been specially chosen in a style befitting the definitive edition of a standard author.

But it is the fact that this is the only complete and

UNEXPURGATED EDITION.

issued in English that the Publishers naturally desire to emphasise.

These beautiful volumes include the eighty-five novels Honoré de Balzac wrote in his twenty active working years.

The marvellous "Comédie Humaine," in which Balzac incorporated so many of his stories when he had been writing already ten years, is a series the plan of which has no parallel in the History of Fiction.

Its sub-divisions were continually altered, re-arranged, and added to by Balzac himself up to the time of his death. The "Human Comedy"—or "The Comedy of Life"—consists of stories of

Private Life,	Political Life,
Provincial Life,	Military Life,
Parisian Life,	Country Life,

all connected by the fine web of a narrative that has the Paris of the Restoration for its centre.

These were ultimately classified by M. Michel Lévy, the Publisher of the Paris "Edition Définitive," according to the author's final intentions.

In this wonderful series of profound studies, each one of over 300 characters stand out with life-like fidelity, each endowed with its distinct personality, and each acting as such a character would act through the varying stages of "that perennial Battle which we call Life."

The "Droll Stories" of Balzac stand alone. They are a fine series in which he reproduces with masterly design and Rabelaisian humour the France of the sixteenth century. All are included here.

One of the most learned of his admirers to-day says that Balzac knows the whole range of human emotions, and that he dares to penetrate into the arena of passions almost too terrible for literature to touch. But one might go on defending and praising and even criticising Balzac for a lifetime and be little further advanced than when he began. For to criticise Balzac is it not to criticise Life itself?

MR. ANDREW LANG writes:

"It is impossible to enter on a detailed criticism of Balzac's novels. In them he scales every height, and sounds every depth of human character. . . . The qualities of Balzac are his extraordinary range of knowledge, observation, sympathy, his steadfast determination to draw every line and shadow of his subject, and his keen analysis of character and conduct."

MR. HENRY JAMES writes:

"Balzac is really the Father of us all. Analysis of him is defied by his consistency and his density. He never throws dust in our eyes; he gives us the real on the scale of the real. His huge picture of the life of France is like a tropical forest of detail, but its depths are stirred by the breath of genius."

"THE ATHENÆUM."

"Balzac—whose work has had more influence on modern fiction than that of any other writer."

A FREE BOOKLET.

We have prepared a charming detailed prospectus containing interesting information about Balzac, his life, and his work, which will be sent post free to those who apply for it. It contains a full list of everything Balzac wrote and its arrangement in these volumes. It will also tell you all about this Caxton edition—the only complete and unexpurgated edition ever issued in English—and of the very easy terms on which it is supplied.

To the Caxton Publishing Co.,
Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part:

Detailed prospectus of "THE CAXTON EDITION OF BALZAC," with terms of easy payments.

NAME.....

(Send this form or a postcard, mentioning JOHN BULL.)

ADDRESS.....

.....

AMONG THE LAWYERS.

ONE LAW FOR THE RICH, AND——?

In the *Times* of October 15th, there was a most disturbing letter from Lady Constance Lytton. It may be remembered by those who follow the proceedings of the rampageous section of the Suffragettes that some eleven women were sent to prison for stone-throwing, and, in one case, the use of a hatchet, upon the occasion of Mr. Lloyd George's recent visit to Newcastle. Many must have been surprised and grieved to find that Lady Constance Lytton was one of the women who behaved in this way. A granddaughter of the famous novelist, daughter of the author of "Lucille" (sometime Governor-General of India), herself loved and respected by a wide circle of friends, and cultured as becomes one who has sprung from such literary stock, it is indeed amazing that this lady could have persuaded herself that any good was to be got for the cause she has at heart by copying, even for a few minutes, the practices of the lawless and disorderly. But that is a matter for Lady Constance Lytton herself. Not only is there no doubt whatever that she was one of the foremost offenders upon the occasion in question, she admits it and glories in it. She writes:—

> I was one of these women, and I deliberately threw a stone at the motor-car which had conveyed Mr. Lloyd George to the meeting, damaging the car to the value of £4. I had already served a month's imprisonment as one of a deputation to the Prime Minister. All the other stone throwers had hurled their weighted messages at the windows of uninhabited public buildings, without risk to human beings. One of them did not so much as break the glass. Several of them had not been charged before, yet they were all condemned to various terms of imprisonment in the third division with hard labour, excepting Mrs. Brailsford, who had used the hatchet against a barricade. She and I were both bound over in sureties, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment in the second division.

Here Lady Constance Lytton makes it clear that she was in the front of the fray, and that whatever punishment was due to others with her at the time should have been her punishment too. To her great credit, she writes to the *Times* to point out that this is not what happened, but that she and Mrs. Brailsford were scandalously screened by the magistrates who tried them. Let us put the case in Lady Constance Lytton's own words:—

> The women sentenced to the third division are, but for their splendid service to the suffrage cause, unknown to the public. Mrs. Brailsford is famous for her heroic work in Macedonia at the time of the riots there; she is also the wife of a leading and influential journalist. I personally have no claim to public recognition, but I happen to have a courtesy title attached to my name and to be related to people of influence in political and social life."

Now, what happened when these ladies and others were before the magistrates? The Justices, as Lady Constance Lytton truly says, were bent on exonerating her from all but a nominal offence, and giving her the lightest sentence, and they were equally determined to pass the hardest possible sentence on the other offenders, Mrs. Brailsford excepted. Lady Constance Lytton was charged with:—

(1) Assault on Sir William Runciman, who was in the car.
(2) Wilful damage to the car to the value of £4.
(3) Disorderly behaviour in a public place.

She was prepared to admit and defend her action upon all three counts. She actually did admit and defend it on the first, but when she was going to do the same with the second and the third, "I was hastily assured that the magistrates had discharged me both of assault and wilful damage and of disorderly behaviour." Sentenced on the first count only, Lady Constance Lytton and Mrs. Brailsford went to jail with the rest, and this is what Lady Constance says as to what happened in jail:—

> With regard to the release of Mrs. Brailsford and myself, we had endured the hunger strike for only 53 hours. We, of course, were not physically stronger for this, but it could not be said that our lives were in danger, or that serious permanent injury to our health was imminent from lack of food. Yet on the third day of our imprisonment a heart specialist was called in, and the doctors reported that they could not be responsible for the result if either our hunger strike were allowed to continue or artificial methods of feeding enforced. We were consequently released in the evening. Our protests and petitions for our comrades were of no avail, and we left behind us in Newgate Prison several women much younger than ourselves, to whom certainly in one case, if not in two or three, the risks from starvation or from resisted forcible feeding are much greater than they were to us. Four of our friends who were sentenced on October 9th were already being forcibly fed. Their cries and protests of distress reached us in our cells.

All honour to Lady Constance Lytton for having drawn attention to the scandalous partiality of the authorities. Well may she ask, "What has the Liberal Government to say? What has public opinion to say in defence of such glaring partiality and injustice?" Well may Mrs. Pankhurst ask, "Can it be that this professedly democratic Government measures out the degree of punishment to be applied to those of its opponents whom it victimises according to the influence and power of their friends and relatives?" We cannot imagine any course of procedure more likely to bring the law into contempt, more likely to rivet in the minds of the poor the sinister belief, always latent there, that there is one law for the rich and another for the humble. To us it seems that if it be a wrong thing to break carriage windows, and to hurl missiles at their occupants, and to use hatchets for the purpose of unlawful entrance; if these things are deserving of punishment, as assuredly they are, women in the position of Lady Constance Lytton and Mrs. Brailsford deserve a much heavier punishment than others who may have been brought up in an atmosphere of lawlessness, and accustomed to settle their differences by the crudest methods of asault and battery.

JUSTICE IN HULL.

We have received the following letter from Mr. Benno Pearlman, Solicitor, of Parliament Chambers, 5, Parliament Street, Hull:—

> I ask your indulgence for the purpose of drawing the public attention to the administration of justice in this city.
>
> In the first place I submit that the public who pay for the administration of justice are entitled to the same in an impartial manner. I propose quoting several cases in which I have appeared during the past few months, the results in which appear to be somewhat remarkable.
>
> (1) Thorp v. Thorp.—In this case two lay magistrates (Messrs. Judge and Hall) were advised by the justices' clerk that certain evidence proposed to be called by me was *irrelevant*. The Court of Appeal (Justices Phillimore and Bucknill) sent the case back to Hull for *re-trial*, as no proper trial had taken place.
>
> (2) Your readers will remember the "Mennell" case, in which Detective-Sergeant Mennell was charged with stealing furniture claimed by his wife. The stipendiary magistrate demanded £500 bail, which was forthcoming. The case was eventually withdrawn by the prosecution. No evidence for the prosecution or defence was ever heard. The case was settled "in camera" in his Worship's private room.
>
> (3) The Ryan Case.—This case is now well known by your readers. It had been the custom for several years to allow the summons book to be marked "withdrawn" in cases where the prosecutor did not appear and the defendant did appear. This was contrary to aw, and the stipendiary magistrate eventually agreed lwith my views.
>
> (4) In a case a few days since where a prisoner I defended was charged with receiving stolen fish, after the stipendiary magistrate had intimated *he had decided to convict*, I drew his attention to the fact that evidence he had received was *not evidence in law*. This prisoner was subsequently discharged.
>
> (5) The Sunday Trading Cases.—During the past fortnight 280 summonses were dismissed on the ground that no information had been laid before any magistrate. The leading case on this point is a Hull case taken to the Court of Appeal in 1890—Dixon v. Wells—when the method then in use at the Hull Police Court of granting summonses was strongly condemned by the then Lord Chief Justice Coleridge. Notwithstanding this decision, the same wrong mode of procedure had been indulged in and it is a *mild* estimate when I say at least 50,000 summonses have been wrongly issued since then for all kinds of offences. The stipendiary magistrate expressed the opinion that the irregularities had been cured by the appearance of the defendants. I beg to point out that he knew the summonses were being wrongly issued, whilst the defendants could not have any such information.

LEGAL ANSWERS.

National Cash Register Co.—A Sufferer (Hastings).—The amount due by you at the present time to the company, including the £6 4s. 4d. costs, amounts, on your own showing, to £21 4s. 4d. Against that you have returned the till bought by you for £26 5s. You want to know what your remaining liability is to the company. That depends entirely upon the arrangement you arrived at when you agreed to return the till, with which you do not acquaint us. We return the account enclosed in your letter.

Rent Recovery.—(Writer.)—If the landlord accepted possession he cannot sue for the full quarter's rent.

Embezzlement.—(Anxious, Wolverhampton.)—The Guarantee Society cannot recover the money.

Dilapidations.—(Rex.)—If the lease was assigned and notice sent to the landlord, you are no longer liable unless there is anything in the terms of the assignment to preserve a remedy against you. Consult a solicitor.

Signboard Rights.—(Anxious.)—You have no right to demand the continuance of the notice, and must pay the rent demanded.

Division of Property.—*W.H.H.*—Each daughter takes her share absolutely, and can do what she likes with it. The house property, of course, must be made into cash.

The Man Who Knows.

In every big business house there is always one man who is sent for when some special information is wanted. This is "the man who knows." The man who knows is the man who succeeds in Business. Why should not *YOU* be that man?

Attention has lately been called to the fact that there is in every big business house a man who is sent for at once when some special information is wanted.

This is "The Man who Knows"—we will call him Smith, because it isn't his name.

It will be interesting to know, not only how Smith came to be "The Man who Knows," but also how this fact affected his Business success.

He wasn't born crammed full of exact business knowledge, and he didn't acquire the outfit spontaneously with his first tailed jacket. Neither did he absorb this knowledge that is worth so much in a fit of absence of mind, as somebody once said Great Britain acquired her foreign dependencies.

No, he acquired his mental stock-in-trade deliberately and of his own free will.

He saw the difficulties, as well as the possibilities of the Business fight; he did not delude himself with the idea that if he opened his mouth everything he wanted would drop into it. And quite early in his Business life he grasped the fact that the men who come to the top are the men who know.

He saw a certain number of Business men who believed—because they wanted to believe—that they could jog along through the business day in the same old ruts their fathers got into, and come out all right on quarter day.

He saw that every one of these men came a cropper because he failed to see beyond his own nose, because he couldn't learn by experience.

These are the sort of men who should have stayed in the Ark.

What are the Conditions To-day?

But Smith wasn't one of that sort. He could read the signs of the times.

The fact is, that the present condition of things in the Business world is one that has no parallel in the story of commerce. At no time in the history of the world was the fight so remorseless, the combat so keen, the issue so deadly.

During the last few years a new spirit has entered into Business life. The old weapons—sobriety, industry, punctuality, courtesy—of course, you need them. The young man standing on the threshold of his Business life especially needs them. But to-day he needs something more. He needs systematised Business knowledge. And if he has not got this, or he doesn't know where to get it, or, knowing, does not trouble himself about getting it, then inevitably and surely and swiftly, too, he gets crowded out. And the man who knows always comes to the top. Because Business knowledge, systematised, up-to-date, practical, is the tool that achieves and perfects Business success. Without Business knowledge, you may be as civil, as punctual, as sober as you like, but you will stay down with the crowd on the lowest rung of the Business ladder.

You might just as well try to come to the top to-day, without this tool—this expert Business knowledge—as a surgeon might try to perform a delicate operation with his wife's knitting needle.

Anybody can see the truth of this. But Smith acted upon it. And so he became "The Man Who Knows."

He made up his mind to acquire this Business knowledge, and he did acquire it.

Why Not You?

Has it ever occurred to you that you yourself might just as well be "The Man Who Knows"? But how?

Perhaps you have never heard of the Business Encyclopædia"? or, perhaps, you have heard of it and read of it, but have brushed the knowledge aside saying it did not concern you.

You never made a greater mistake in your life. Everything relating to business concerns you—your bread-and-butter depends on it. You cannot afford to neglect Business knowledge nowadays. You cannot afford to be efficient.

Send for the Free Book to-day. It will be the wisest thing you ever did. The Free Book will show you how necessary—nay, how indispensable—the Business Encyclopædia is to *your* success. It will tell you how you can acquire this wonderful work complete for a first payment of 1s. 6d., and pay for it, while you are using it, by a few small monthly payments. The Free Book will tell you how *you* may become "The Man Who Knows."

Get the Right Tool.

"The Business Encyclopædia" is the tool you must possess yourself of if you want to rise to the top of the Business world. It is the only work ever published in England that covers every point connected with the supremely important subjects of Business, Money, and Trade. The "Man who Knows" made it his rule to refer himself to "The Business Encyclopædia" whenever he was in any doubt as to a question of Business methods, Business details, or Business practice. Moreover, he took a steady course of study on the most important aspects of Business knowledge, and he took himself back over the ground he had once mastered in order to assure himself that he had not forgotten anything.

In this way he acquired a sound working knowledge of Business matters without paying heavy tutorial fees to a Business College or leaving his own comfortable room in the evening.

The Business Encyclopædia is an ideal work of reference for the man who wants to succeed. Every article is a *Business* article, and there are over 12,000 references in the Index.

We would also direct attention to the concise treatises, written by Business experts, which contain everything that is known on the subject with which they deal. Much of this information is available in no other form.

The "Man who Knows" is the man who owns and uses the Business Encyclopædia. He carries all before him because he has confidence in himself and he has confidence in the information he is acting on. He knows it has led others to Business success, and he knows it is going to lead him to Business successes. And so he goes on from one step on the Business ladder to another, till he gets right there. The world makes room for the man who knows.

Messrs. J. S. Fry and Sons, Ltd., Bristol, write:—

"The volumes have already proved of great use to us, and we would not be without them on any account. We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work."

A CLERK'S OPINION.

Mr. G. W. Read, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.: I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

A FREE BOOK.

The Publishers have compiled a handsomely illustrated book—"THE PRACTICAL BOOK"—which will be sent to you *post free*. It contains information of priceless value to the man who means to succeed. It will tell you all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it can be obtained for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance to be paid by a few small monthly payments.

To the CAXTON PUBLISHING CO.,
Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, a copy of "THE PRACTICAL BOOK."

Name .....
(Send this Form or a postcard mentioning John Bull.)

Address .....

.....

THE ASSURANCE COMPANIES BILL.

STRONG OPPOSITION FROM AGENTS—GRAVE PERIL TO INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE.

This Bill which, but for the sudden adjournment of Parliament, would have come on for second reading last week, and which at the time of writing is waiting for that stage, is creating a veritable storm in the industrial assurance world. The fight centres round Clause 37, which is designed to increase the scope of industrial assurance by legalising policies "for the funeral expenses of a parent, grandparent, or grandchild," and to validate policies already issued by assurance societies and companies in good faith upon such lives prior to the recent decision of the Courts to the effect that they are outside the scope of Section 8 of the Friendly Societies' Act, and of the powers hitherto possessed by industrial assurance companies. The section also provides facilities for the conversion of societies with one hundred thousand members and upwards into limited liability companies, unless at least one-fourth of the members object to such conversion.

So far as the extension of the principle of insurable interest is concerned, there is very little difference of opinion as to the justice of the clause, although it is felt—and, as we think, rightly felt—that the doctrine of "insurable interest" might be extended considerably, so as to justify insurance upon the life of any person in whom it could be shown that the person proposing to insure had a legitimate pecuniary interest. Another point is that the section strictly limits such extension of assurance to "funeral expenses"—an ambiguous phrase, which may give rise to a great deal of litigation in future, and also tends to encourage the pernicious practice of spending more than is absolutely necessary upon the obsequies of the industrial classes.

In reference to the proposals for conversion, opinions are somewhat divided as to the desirability of further facilities, but are practically unanimously in favour of throwing the onus, not upon the one-fourth of the members opposing conversion, but upon the three-fourths desiring it. It is pointed out that although the Court has power, if it thinks fit, to award costs to the opposing members, they naturally belong to the poorer classes, and are quite unable to find the preliminary expenses; and it is contended that the burden of proving the necessity for conversion should be upon those who desire it.

What, however, has so much perturbed the whole of the industrial assurance world is the threat made by the Chairman of the Trades' Union Congress to strenuously oppose the progress of the measure until there has been a public enquiry into the alleged practice of "gambling in lives." It is felt that this statement casts a totally unmerited slur upon the whole body of assurance agents and upon the various societies and companies, not one of whom, it is contended, has ever knowingly been a party to such proceedings; whilst it is also asserted, and with every evidence of truthfulness, that the magnitude of the evil has been grossly exaggerated. That, however, is not the main point.

What has aroused the agents and their societies and companies to such activity is the conviction that the mere appointment of an enquiry will shake the confidence of the working classes in the whole system of industrial assurance, and make it practically impossible to carry on the business whilst such an enquiry is pending. In these circumstances, it is urged that, if the President of the Board of Trade should accede to the suggestion for an enquiry, it should take the form of a departmental investigation, at which agents should be entitled to be heard—a course which we strongly press upon Mr. Churchill, in the best interests of the working classes, many of whom would undoubtedly be led into allowing their policies to lapse by exaggerated fears, in the event of a public enquiry.

In these circumstances, it is to be hoped that the Labour Party will see their way to waive the demand for anything in the nature of a public enquiry, and allow the measure to pass into law without delay.

SELFRIDGE'S.

YANKEE METHODS NOT TAKING ROOT OVER HERE.

A year ago some natural curiosity was excited by the growth of a huge building in Oxford Street—to be known as the public were informed by placards, as Selfridge's. "To-day," to quote one of its flamboyant advertisements, "'Selfridge's' stands complete, from the deeps of its sub-sub-basement to the airy heights of its garden roof eight floors above."

At Selfridge's the public were promised, to quote once more from its advertisements, "the very apotheosis of interesting novelty;" also, "dignity, courtesy, energy, integrity, originality, liberality, value." In truth, an ideal shop at which to deal.

Selfridge's was opened on March 15th of the present year, and on June 14th the public were invited to subscribe for £400,000 Five Per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures, and £187,458 Six Per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares. Investors were assured that the business showed "a progress far in excess of anticipations."

Nevertheless the reception of the issue by the public was, to say the least, chilly. They were content with 15 per cent. of the debentures offered, and to leave the Preference shares to Mr. H. G. Selfridge, who was under contract to take and pay for at par any that might be left over.

It is the fashion to assume that in the matter of New Issues the public are fools. Given judicious advertising "the note of goodness, of taste," as Mr. Selfridge put it, and they will subscribe for anything. But that is not always the case, and the Selfridge prospectus had some disturbing figures. No doubt the building erected by the firm is a very handsome one—but it cost £600,000, which at 5 per cent. interest means £30,000 per annum. Nor would it be easy to improve upon the site for a business of the kind—but the net ground rent is £10,570 per annum. The advertising again had been very extensive. Mr. Selfridge had demonstrated, as he boasted, the "æsthetic possibilities" of the advertising columns of the daily papers—but it had cost a mint of money. And so, for this reason and that, the investor still distrusted Selfridge's.

The business was not helped by an unfortunate omission of Selfridge's management, the failure at the outset to properly organise the book-keeping department. In their early advertisements Selfridge's informed the public that they would "be pleased to open accounts with customers." Unfortunately they not only opened accounts; they tendered them again and again—after they had been paid. That angered customers, and though the slackness that made these blunders possible has been remedied, the business was injured.

Then as to "value-giving," about which so much was said in advertisements, and upon which so much depends, the public have not been able to discover that they get more for their sovereign at Selfridge's than elsewhere. It is rather the other way about. You cannot have a "reception hall," a "library," a "silence room," "national rooms," "the first-aid ward," the parcel and cloak rooms, the information bureau, without somebody paying for it, and, according to the advertisements, "there is no charge of any kind" for these conveniences. No visible charge, that is to say; but the management expenses must be swollen, and so indirectly the prices the public have to pay are affected. And is not it the fact that the buyers at Selfridge's have to allow a larger profit than in other houses?

Be that as it may, Selfridge's want more capital, and must get it if trouble is to be avoided.

In August, Mr. C. Stiens, the merchandise manager and a director, went over to America, as it was understood, with the object of raising capital. He has returned, and Mr. Selfridge left for America on the 9th, as rumour has it, for the same purpose.

As we stated two years ago, when we felt it necessary to criticise the then position of Waring and Gillow, nothing is further from our desire than to embarrass the management of any big industrial undertaking calculated to fill a public want and to afford employment to a large number of people. In view, however, of the great flourish of trumpets which characterised the advent of Selfridge's, and to the manner in which the all-British staff theory has been disregarded, we think it right the public should know that this latest addition to the emporiums of London is not exactly an example to British establishments carrying on the same kind of business.

OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(Specially Mis-reported for "John Bull.")
By Richard Morton.

A VILLAIN WHO WANTED WORK—WAS THE MAGISTRATE MAD?

The vigilance of a zealous constable was admirably illustrated in a case heard yesterday at the North Ham Police Court, when Willing Toowork, described as an upholsterer, was charged with acting as a pedlar without having a certificate in force.

Police-constable Pokenose said he saw the prisoner going from house to house in a select residential neighbourhood. Being suspicious of his movements, he tracked him for an hour with unfailing pertinacity, ultimately finding his worst ideas fully justified. The fellow was actually offering to repair sofas, mend broken springs in easy chairs, or sew up busted mattresses. The constable said it gave him quite a turn.

The Magistrate (Mr. Nogo): Let me thoroughly understand you. Do you say he was really offering to work?

Constable (in hushed accents): It's the Gospel truth, sir. As he had no certificate, I at once took him into custody.

Magistrate: You acted with remarkable promptitude. It is not every officer who does his duty so nobly. Perhaps this hardened ruffian actually had the tools of his trade upon him?

Constable: He had, sir. He said he was a good workman who knew his business, and would make a first-class job of anything entrusted to him.

Magistrate: I suppose he did not carry sofas and chairs and mattresses round with him and offer to sell them?

Constable: No, sir. He just knocked at doors of houses and asked the startled inmates to try him at his trade, and said they wouldn't regret it.

Magistrate: And you, with your knowledge of the law, call that pedling?

Constable: Certainly, sir; without any possible, probable shadow of doubt whatever. He was offering for sale his skill in handicraft.

Magistrate (horrified): Was he, indeed? I don't think I have ever heard a more terrible charge in the whole course of my experience on the bench. It passes the limits of human comprehension how a fellow-creature can sink so low. (To the prisoner.) Have you anything whatever to urge against this awful accusation that has been so clearly brought home to you?

Prisoner: I did ask for work. If I can't get work I can't live. And I want to live, hard as life is. I don't want to go in the workhouse. I'm willing to keep on slaving away, hoping for better times. I am out of a regular job, and I did not see any harm in offering my services.

Magistrate: You are a man after my own heart. I think you are a Briton and a brick. You won't beg, and you will work. Good luck to you. Just come and knock at my door, and you shall mend every sofa, chair, and mattress in the house. And if there aren't any that want mending, I'll rip a few up while you wait. And if some constable locks you up for it, I'll give him six months for contempt of court, and another six months for not having more sense. You are discharged. And here is my card. Call.

THE DELUDED WIFE—AND WHY SHE COMPLAINED.

At the North-east London Police Court, James Taleteller was charged with obtaining money by false pretences.

It appeared from the evidence of Mrs. Spratt, of Paradise Row, that prisoner called on her and, affecting great concern, said her husband, John Spratt, had fallen into the River Lea while fishing for salmon. Prisoner said he had dived to save him, but was too late. Her husband was drowned, and she was a widow.

She proceeded: And he asked me to give him what I could spare so as he could bring my husband home decent in a carriage, and to pay the men for a-watching of him. And I give him a whole sovereign, quite eager like. And I hears no more till my husband walks in at night as large as life. He hadn't fallen in no river, and never got drowned.

Magistrate: It was a cruel fraud, and I must make an example of this man for robbing you of your money.

Complainant: Oh, it ain't the money I worry about. If it was only that, I'd let him go. I don't bear no malice about the quid. But he ought to have the mill for telling me such lies and raising false hopes and making me believe I was a widow when I wasn't. Them's the false pretences I complain of. It ain't the money. It's the hard luck!

Magistrate: On that clear statement the charge is withdrawn. Dismissed.

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JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

Parlour Tricks.

Very very faintly, on the far horizon, there is a hint beginning to appear that we are to have the accomplished girl amongst us again. The "smart set" began it, by introducing famous amateur actresses and society dancers some little time ago, and now there are not wanting signs that people who can sing well will be welcomed in good houses, and people who can play or paint, or even do art work beautifully, or even converse. After such a long reign of blatant ignorance and bad athletics this news sends quite a breath of hope through us. No one wants the return of the noisy lady who played tempestuous duets with another like her, at a piano with a fluted silk back; or the æsthete who painted tambourines with bad poppies. But it would be rather nice to find someone in a week-end crowd who just knew enough to entertain the rest charmingly. There is no doubt that the few who can are by far the most powerful in that crowd. People have so long despised the arts of the drawing-room as Early Victorian, that they will hardly believe it when they hear that Lady So-and-So's young daughter is a beautiful musician, or writes fine poetry, or is a clever artist, or reciter. Yet one could already multiply very distinguished names in that connection. Not long ago I heard some rich girls discussing amongst themselves, on a row of drawing-room stools after dinner, why so many men of title married girls from the stage. They could not understand it. When we others wanted one of them to entertain us with music or something, they all yawned and said they could only play Bridge. After that their question seemed to be rather neatly answered for itself!

Blondes in Clover.

The large flat "bun-shaped" or turban-like chignon which now seriously threatens our curls, is not a fashion for everyone to jump at with impunity. It wants quite thin, refined features to look really well, or at all events, a great deal of vivacity of expression. Otherwise the result is objectionably heavy, and rather coarsening. The other evening I saw a quite well-known pretty woman who is brilliantly dark, with short, decided, and thickly cut features, quite spoilt by such a heavy black roll round her head and an uncurled "baby" fringe on her brow. Hers was the face of all faces for the hair to be brushed back from the forehead with picturesque simplicity, as is so often the case with brunettes, but she had massed it heavily over her dark eyes till she looked like a glorified skye terrier. And yet how many people might envy the power to look one's best with a simple "lifting back" of the hair! To my mind that particular kind of rolled chignon is essentially a fashion for blondes, and even with light, fluffy hair it runs the risk of looking lumpy, unless carefully kept clear of the caricature that is the fate of most rather sudden changes of fashion. With it the inevitable fillet becomes plain and flat like a bandage, and is worn further forward on the head. Little wreaths or rows of stars also set well on it for evening wear. If it really becomes general, will very tiny hats, perched on like those in Leech's drawings, come in too? The fashion fates forbid!

The Fairy's Gift.

Talking of beauty, a writer in one of the dailies last week has again repeated the old self-contradiction that what women most desire of the gods is first of all beauty; then wit; then brains. May I once again politely suggest that these three qualities are inevitably interchangeable and undividable? If there is one out of all the trio hopelessly dull, though, it is the first. As I have said before, I am a worshipper of beauty—sheer physical beauty—but I am wide awake enough to see that it is utterly boring by itself, and I should be sorry to see the women of this generation making of it, and it alone, an idol.

As a matter of fact, without wit, which after all is only another name for the French *esprit* or 'our clumsier word "soul," a woman hardly is a beauty. To be lovely one must be composed of the two natures in their highest degree—the physical and the spiritual. That is a mere truism. Again, the much-despised "brains," which we associate somehow with spectacles and thick waists, are, after all, an enormous power. Once and for all, clear the air of all ugly, ill-dressed, cranky women (of which there are many types now extant, which pass for "brainy"), and get direct to the real women of brains, such as George Eliot, Madame de Stael, Queen Elizabeth, Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, Madame de Maintenon, Elizabeth Barrett-Browning Georges Sand and Mrs. Gaskell, to mention only a few, and see if most of us would not love to hold such sway as theirs. Women who made men and helped to make nations and epochs, not by either screaming or flirting, but by sheer talent and character. They were worshipped enough, Heaven knows, every one of them. Four or five out of that list have contributed to history some of the most gorgeous love-stories of the world—their own. Yet out of all that list only one was beautiful, and two reasonably pretty, to go by the old portraits. There was a woman once of the Court of the Tuileries—Madame la Comtesse de Castiglione—who was gifted with splendid beauty—and no soul and no mind. She only charmed Louis Napoleon for a few months. Then, when she found that she could not run Paris by looks alone, she shut herself up in a villa and never once went out or saw the light of day for thirty solid years

Wonderful Results from the Use of Electricity.

EMINENT AUTHORITY TELLS OF HIS EXPERIENCE.

Sir James A. Grant, physician to Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada and consulting physician to the Montreal General and St. Luke's Hospitals, announced recently in an article that blood can be made by electricity, and that persons suffering from weakness and debility can be greatly benefited thereby.

"An important fact, demonstrated clearly," says Sir James in his article, "is that blood can be actually made by electricity, by stimulating through the abdominal walls the nerve-centres that govern the process of blood formation."

Among the cases cited is that of a man 71 years old, who had suffered for a number of years from muscular weakness, anæmia, and general debility. "Electric treatment through the solar plexus," he says, "given every second day for three weeks brought about an entire change for the better. The patient now walks with ease and comfort, and his face has regained its red colour."

Eminent physicians and scientists to-day, the world over, vie with one another in proclaiming the wonderful and beneficial effects of electricity when properly applied to the human body. What interpretation must be placed upon the above extract? Sir James A. Grant is a high authority. Is electricity "Life"? There is not the slightest doubt of it. This great truth has been continually asserted, and the assertion has been backed up by permanent cures, by making weak men and women strong again, by relieving suffering, by conquering pains and aches, by making many a hapless victim of dissipation and disease well again, by restoring vim and vigour to thousands of debilitated men and women, by "salvaging" thousands of human wrecks.

Slowly but surely the work has forged ahead. Almost every week one reads in the papers the account of a startling "discovery" by some great physician or scientist relating to the influence of the electric current on the human body. All this aids in raising electricity to the high place it is taking as a remedy for the weakness, the ills of the body, but in this work no one thing in the line of curative agencies has contributed more to the sum and substance of human happiness than the "Ajax" Dry-Cell Body Battery.

Why? Because the Battery feeds this "Life Force" into the system in just the right way. How? You wear it for an hour while resting. It is then that the resistance of the body is least. It is then that the nerve cells of the body absorb the current thoroughly. This fact, coupled with the knowledge how to utilise the positive and negative elements of the galvanic current, how to arrange the battery for each individual case, accounts for its success in making actual cures with electricity where hundreds of physicians have failed.

What can medicine do for a weak man or woman? Nothing, and thousands of fairly good stomachs have been ruined by drug dosing. Nine-tenths of the many ailments of the body can be traced to lack of vitality or nerve power, and science has proved that nerve power is the electricity in the nerve cells. Restore this vitality by a steady infusion of the galvanic current, and the healthy action of every organ of the body is restored, and every bodily function is promoted.

You can't argue against results. Such evidence is irrefutable. This is what the cured say:—"I am pleased to say that I am cured by the use of your battery.—Frank Underwood, Colchester House, Poplar Ave., Rowlands Gill." His was a case of constipation. Another case which was described as one of rheumatism, stomach and liver troubles is reported in these words:—"I have worn the battery for an hour each night for three months. The pains in my limbs are all gone.—J. Bishop, 115, Queen's Road, Portsmouth." Mr. John Wingate, St. Olives, Aldwick Road, Bognor, reports a cure of rheumatism thus:—"I have great faith in the battery, and shall be pleased to recommend it to any one you like to refer to me."

John Bull readers should at once ask The British Electric Institute (Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C., to send their free book upon the subject. We suggest that you write at once if you cannot call at the office for a free test of the electric current.—[Advt.]

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No matter what you are at present—no matter what is your position—whether you are a Manager or an Office Boy—a Cashier or a Clerk—an Employer or an Employee—a Foreman or a Labourer—an Accountant or a Typist—it matters not. EVERY COMPETITOR HAS AN EQUAL CHANCE. All attempts will be judged on their merits. Writing and spelling do not enter into the Competition, it is ideas only that matter. The simplest way may be the best of all, and secure the First Prize of £2,000. A Labourer has as good a chance as a Solicitor—every competitor has an equal chance, so don't hesitate to enter this Competition.

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First	Prize	£2,000	In Cash.
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Sixth	,,	£50	,,
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Eighth	,,	£50	,,
Ninth	,,	£25	,,
Tenth	,,	£25	,,
25 Prizes of		£10	each,,
100 ,,	,,	£5	,, ,,
200 ,,	,,	£1	,, ,,

Making a Total of 335 Prizes - - £5,000 in Cash.

The Names and Addresses of the Prize Winners will be published in the leading Daily and Evening Papers on Saturday, November 27th next, and cheques posted to the Prize Winners the same day.

NOTE—YOUR COUPON MUST REACH US NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY NEXT, 26th OCTOBER.

This Competition is Absolutely Genuine.

Every Reader Has An Equal Chance.

How the Competition will be Judged and the Prizes Awarded.

The ideas sent in will be judged after taking into consideration the occupation of the Competitor.

Example:—If a working man suggests spending £2,000 on a luxurious motor car the idea would be a bad one, as he would not be able to maintain such a car on his wages.

This is merely an example.

The result of the Competition, with the winners' names and full addresses, will be published in "The Daily Telegraph," "The Daily Mail," and the leading Provincial Daily Papers on Saturday, November 27th next, and the Cheques will be posted to the winners the same day.

The following Gentlemen, whose integrity is beyond question, have kindly consented to act as a committee of Judges for the Competition. Every attempt will be carefully examined and judged on its merits.

COMMITTEE OF JUDGES.

1. The Rt. Hon. Earl of Clonmell.
2. Major Sir Charles Cuyler. (Baronet.)
2. Major S. Byrne.
4. "Dick Donovan," (The well-known Author.)
5. Bart Kennedy, Savage Club.
6. A. B. S. Rogers (LL.B. Cambridge

.....Cut along here.....

Cut along here

This Coupon attached to your attempt or answer to the Competition, must reach us at the latest by Tuesday next, 26th October. This notice will not appear again in "John Bull," so fill in your coupon at once.

To the Editor,
"National Monthly,"
180-181, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

COUPON.

I enclose P.O. for 5/-, being one year's subscription for the popular Magazine, "The National Monthly," the first number of which must be delivered to me next month (November) and then every month to complete the year's subscription to my address free of all charge. I also enclose my attempt to the gigantic Prize Competition. You are also to publish in "The Times," "The Daily Telegraph," "The Daily Mail," "The Manchester Guardian," "The Liverpool Post," "Glasgow Herald," and other leading Papers, the names and full addresses of the respective prize winners, on Saturday, November 27th next, and post cheques to the winners on that date. (The Proprietors reserve to themselves the right to refuse any subscription and return the money.)

No one connected with the Magazine will be allowed to compete. The awards of the judges appointed by you shall be final, and no correspondence can be entered into.

Please write very distinctly. State whether Rev., Mr., Mrs. or Miss.

Name .....

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The Competition

By which you can win £2,000, or one of the other 334 Gigantic Cash Prizes.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

Below will be found a question and the prizes will be awarded to the competitors who send in what the judges consider to be the best answers. Remember the prizes will NOT be divided. That is to say, that only one person will receive the £2,000 first prize and the same with the other prizes.

QUESTION.—Supposing you won the First Prize of £2,000 what would YOU do with it?

RULES FOR COMPETITORS.—Write your Name and Address on the first sheet of your answer and send in your attempt with your P.O. for 5/- and also send in the Coupon given below, with your name, address and occupation.

Competitors should give their answer in plain language (short and to the point) and use plain words. Write on one side of paper only. Do not be afraid of bad spelling, grammar, &c. These will not disqualify you so long as your idea is good. The question should be carefully thought out before writing out your answer. The prizes will be awarded, not for any flowery answers, but for what the judges think is the wisest, most straightforward and simplest answer as to how the competitor would make the best use of £2,000. Of course, the winners will not be required to spend the money in the way they state in their answer, but have a free hand to do what they like with their money.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By Walter Moore.

XXI.—MRS. PANKHURST.

Having donned a complete suit of armour borrowed from a friendly antiquary, I made my will, bade my family an affecting farewell, and started off to interview Mrs. Pankhurst.

I had expected that my appearance would cause some stir in Clement's Inn, but to my relief and surprise no one seemed to heed my mediæval costume. I can only conclude that the frequenters of that neighbourhood took me for a fresh species of Suffragette, and accordingly ignored me.

The lady who guarded the approach to Mrs. Pankhurst's private sanctum demanding my name, I said, "A Knight in Armour," and under that designation I was promptly ushered into the presence of the leader of the militant Suffragists.

"Take a seat," invited Mrs. Pankhurst graciously.

"I'm afraid I can't," I returned, in some embarrassment; "this armour is rather stiff in the joints. Pray excuse me if I continue to stand."

"Certainly," returned Mrs. Pankhurst; "but may I ask what is your object in coming to see me garbed in such an extraordinary fashion?"

"My object is twofold," I replied. "First, being an opponent of universal female suffrage, I am well aware of the risk in penetrating alone to the heart of the enemy's camp, and have accordingly provided myself with adequate protection by encasing my limbs in mail—excuse the word," I added, hastily, seeing Mrs. Pankhurst reach for a hatchet that lay on the table.

"Secondly," I continued, "I wished to personify the spirit of chivalry, on behalf of which I have come to plead."

"What have I to do with chivalry?" demanded Mrs. Pankhurst.

"Not much," I returned; "only that you are doing your best to kill what little remains of it."

"And a good job too," cried Mrs. Pankhurst. "Do you think we trouble about what we kill, so long as we get the vote?"

"Judging from your conduct, you don't," I replied; "but tell me in confidence, Mrs. Pankhurst," I proceeded, in my most winning style, "do you realise that you are alienating the support of all sober-minded believers in women's enfranchisement—in other words, can't you see that you have fouled your own nest?"

"Yes, I realise that now," confessed Mrs. Pankhurst; "but," she continued, with a sigh, "it is too late to check the militant movement. I appear to lead, but in reality I am being pushed along in front by the horde of frenzied women whom, in an unfortunate hour, I called forth from the domestic obscurity to which they properly belong."

"Why not call a halt?" I asked. "Point out to the misguided mob, who are supposed to follow you, that their methods are postponing indefinitely the privilege for which they clamour."

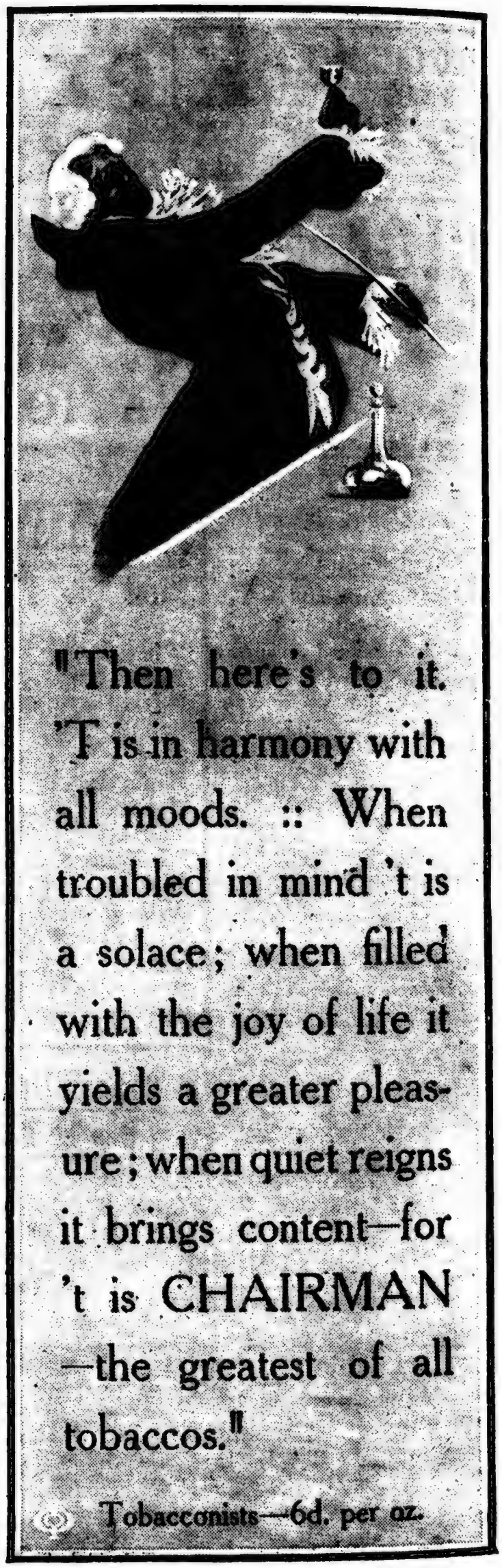
"I daren't," whispered Mrs. Pankhurst, looking round, fearfully; "it would be as much as my life is worth. They would revenge themselves horribly upon me. They would feed me by force, or something."

"But what on earth put the idea into your head in the first place—that women want the Parliamentary vote? You know the majority of them would not exercise it if they had it. The indifference with which the bulk of them regard the municipal franchise, where the intelligent use of their privilege might be useful to the community—alone is a proof of woman's political apathy."

"You evidently don't understand women," replied Mrs. Pankhurst, with a smile. "It is not altogether the *vote* that we want, but the *knowledge* that we have *got* it. We feel with regard to the franchise very much as many women feel with respect to marriage. They would like to be married, but they don't want to be bothered with a husband."

"Well," I returned, "so far as I can see, the militant Suffragette—excepting those who were lucky enough to marry in the days of their sanity and youth—stands about as good a chance of getting a husband as she does of getting the vote."

"I quite agree with you," murmured Mrs. Pankhurst; "and, what is more," she whispered softly, her lips close to my ear, "she deserves the one about as much as she deserves the other."



TALES CONCERNING TEETH.

By IRENE MILLER.

Is dentistry to become a popular profession for women? At least they have a fair field now, for since the English Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians resolved a few weeks ago to recognise no sex disability, the great Royal Dental Hospital of London has also flung open its doors to would-be tooth-pullers of the feminine persuasion.

Will not this make heroes of future masculine patients? Could a man yell and wriggle too wildly under the gaze of an alluring lady-dentist? Death sooner!

According to Paré, a French doctor, toothache is the most atrocious pain that can torment a man without being followed by death. Those who have experienced the antics of the imp from Hell who takes up his abode in a hollow tooth would not pay a medical man to tell them that. It used to be seriously supposed that this lively agony came from a wriggling worm in the tooth. Some sages held that the reptile generated spontaneously out of sheer cussedness—others thought it came from the eggs of flies or other insects taken in with food. At one time trustful patients used to be set to inhale burning henbane seeds to smother the wriggler. One splendid liar named Pechlin, professor of medicine at Kiel in 1706, swore he saw five dental worms crawl out of a decayed tooth; another brilliant genius, Salmuth, extracted one an inch and a half long, and showed it to the patient in a cup of water—a certain proof of course!

There is a gruesome little tooth tale in Lady Cardigan's recently published "Recollections." A certain nobleman had a beautiful wife, whom another man had adored hopelessly for years. After her death the husband invited the other man to see her in her coffin. There she lay, lovely as a waxen image. Said the husband, "You would never guess such an exquisite creature had such rotten back teeth. Look at them." So saying, he forced open the mouth of the corpse for the inspection of the devoted admirer. Brute!

We poor humans have always been worried by our molars. Some of the Egyptian mummies have stopped teeth, while the ancient Etruscans were obviously proud of a false set, and made no effort at concealment. Doubtless it was regarded as a luxury—a refinement only accessible to persons of means, like a real diamond pin nowadays.

Of course false teeth have their market value. When Oscar Wilde lay dead, the landlord commandeered his false teeth as part payment of the account. Apropos of this incident, how many people know poor Oscar's reputed last words? He was lying in a state of seeming *coma*, and one doctor asked the other if he expected to get paid for his services. "I fear not," was the reply. "The man seems to have no money at all." At this the supposed unconscious man raised his lids a moment, and remarked faintly, "I'm afraid I am dying beyond my means."

The modern false tooth of porcelain dates only from about 1840. Before then they were cut from the tusks of hippopotamus and walrus. Hence the old rhyme:—

"The dentist, sir, makes teeth of bone
For those whom Fate has left without,
And finds provision for his own
By pulling other people's out."

More than this, the teeth from corpses were in great demand for insertion into living jaws. Thus grave-diggers and dentists did a good deal of secret business together. There was some fear among patients that disease might be thus transmitted, so the wealthy paid extra for teeth from young and healthy men and women who had died a violent death. Thus a battle-field became a happy hunting-ground. It is said that Waterloo furnished a generous supply of such valuable molars.

But these bone teeth decayed in time just as did the patient's home-grown specimens, so a French chemist, Duchateau, and a dentist, Dubois de Chemant, conceived the idea of making porcelain teeth. They experimented at the Sevres porcelain factory, and had many failures and much to suffer at the hands of the other dentists of the time—the usual fate of the pioneer.

Now, of course, a false tooth can be a perfect work of art. If wanted for a smoker with discoloured ivories the false ones can be tinted by hand, then fired again to permanently fix the colours—just as is done with hand-painted china. The price a dentist pays the wholesale maker for a smoky tooth is only one shilling.

To conclude with a tip for Boy Scouts. Tradition hath it that if you hold the end of a stick stuck upright on the ground, tightly between your teeth, you can thus hear the otherwise inaudible footsteps of a far-off enemy. Try it next time you're out scouting; but keep the secret, please.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY LIMERICK.

A Scottish Attorney named Ure,
Made a statement he thought would endure;
But the Duke he attacked
Proved it fiction, not fact—
What a pity Ure didn't make sure!

"RETLAW

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and if you are entirely satisfied after examination, pay 2/6 on delivery and the balance in five monthly payments of 5/-

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The Overcoat is cleverly cut in highly correct taste and made slightly loose in the back with vent in the centre. The pocket accommodation includes two roomy side pockets with covering flaps, two inside breast pockets and ticket pocket. The foundation work of the garment is thoroughly substantial, the linings and trimmings are undeniably superior, and the whole appearance compels the impression of a stylish gentlemanly coat such as will give high satisfaction to the wearer and command admiration.

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IN DEFENCE OF THE DUKES.

By Walter Moore.

Now that Mr. Herbert Vivian has pronounced sentence upon the Dukes, perhaps I may be permitted, without incurring the charge of contempt of court, to criticise the judge's summing-up, and plead for a mitigation of the punishment awarded.

Let me approach my task in the spirit of the John Bull League, namely, with a mind free from cant, humbug, and hypocrisy, anxious to give the Duke—as well as the Devil—his due.

Dukes, like most of us, are largely the victims of circumstances. The fact that they are the sons of their fathers, the descendants of their ancestors, cannot justly be charged against them as a crime. Nor can they be blamed for the social system which has placed them in the position which they occupy in the State. They are the relics of a feudal system which, although perhaps has by this time ceased to serve any useful purpose, formerly did much to strengthen and consolidate the nation.

But it is with the personal charges brought against individual dukes that I am most concerned at the moment. The charge of wilful idleness is equally degrading whether levelled at a rich man or a poor. But I fully recognise that the nation has a greater right to expect disinterested labour on behalf of the community from those in whose hands the accident of birth has placed vast possessions, lifting them above the remotest possibility of want, than from the man whose utmost energies are required to provide himself and those depending upon him with moderate comforts.

Judged from this point of view, I am willing to admit that, as a body, the twenty-two Dukes who, in addition to the four ducal Princes of the Blood, have the right to sit in the House of Lords, show up poorly. But an impartial survey of their careers will show that in the majority of cases they have performed *some* useful work for their country and their time, rising superior to the strong temptation to idleness which wide possessions must exert.

The Duke of Argyll, dismissed so contemptuously by "Judge" Vivian, sat for fifteen years in Parliament. For three years he acted as private secretary to the then Secretary of State for India, being subsequently appointed Governor-General of Canada. He has written many books, and has generally proved himself to be an energetic and highly intelligent man.

The Duke of Beaufort has done some service for the community even by his addiction to sport. Who will deny that the pursuit of pleasure by some provides scope for the industry of others?

The Duke of Bedford, notwithstanding his connection with Bloomsbury, where "immorality and crime" flourish—and where do they not?—fought for his country in the Egyptian campaign (1882), winning the medal and clasp and the Khedive's star. Surely, also, it may be counted unto him for righteousness that he acted as A.D.C. to Lord Dufferin, Viceroy of India, from 1884 to 1888.

The Duke of Hamilton I willingly leave to the tender mercies of Mr. Vivian. Still, he is the Hereditary Keeper of Holyrood Palace, and so long as he keeps the drains in order we cannot truthfully say that his existence is altogether unjustified.

The Duke of Cumberland and Teviotdale has been all his life too much occupied with his efforts to recover the throne of his father, the late King of Hanover, to give any attention to Britain and Britain's needs. I willingly leave him in pursuit of an elusive crown.

The Duke of Devonshire is a young man, but he has already given evidence of some energy by sitting as Member for West Derbyshire from 1891 until his succession to the dukedom.

The Duke of Fife has proved himself a man of affairs, as well as a man of integrity. He was Vice-Chairman of the Chartered Company until the time of the Jameson Raid, when he resigned; he represented Elgin and Nairn for six years in the House of Commons; and is at present Lord-Lieutenant of the County of London.

The Duke of Grafton least of all merits the scathing animadversion of Mr. Vivian. He was severely wounded at Inkerman. He is a very old man—and he bled for his country. Surely the treachery of a remote ancestor is expunged by this last service?

The Duke of Leeds I will not attempt to defend. But I imagine that the fact of his having represented the City of London on the L.C.C. since 1898 proves him possessed of a certain amount of intelligence and energy.

The Duke of Manchester has time to show what he is made of, as has also the Duke of Marlborough. Both were born in the seventies. The child is not always father of the man.

The Duke of Norfolk has lived a busy life. In 1887 he underwent the fatigue incidental to a Special Envoy to the Pope. He has twice been Mayor of Sheffield, and from 1895 to 1900 fulfilled the somewhat arduous duties of Postmaster-General, crowning these labours by serving for a while in the South African war. It is absurd to point the finger of derision at such a man, implying that he is an example of those who "toil not, neither do they spin."

The Duke of Richmond also deserves respect on account of his gallant conduct in South Africa, being mentioned in despatches. The Duke of Westminster passed honourably through the same war, acting as A.D.C. to Lord Roberts, having previously assisted Viscount Milner in the same capacity.

With the exception of the Duke of Newcastle, who for many years was a member of the London School Board, and has been very active in High Church circles, I am willing to submit the remaining Dukes to the judgment of Mr. Vivian. But I claim to have proved by a simple recital of facts which may be verified in any Public Library, that though they be overburdened with possessions which they are reluctant to relinquish at the bidding of an awakening democracy, the majority of the twenty-two Dreadful Dukes are at least by no means the useless, doddering, senile sybarites, or brainless representatives of an effete aristocracy, they are made out to be.

LIEUTENANT SHACKLETON AND A TENDER.

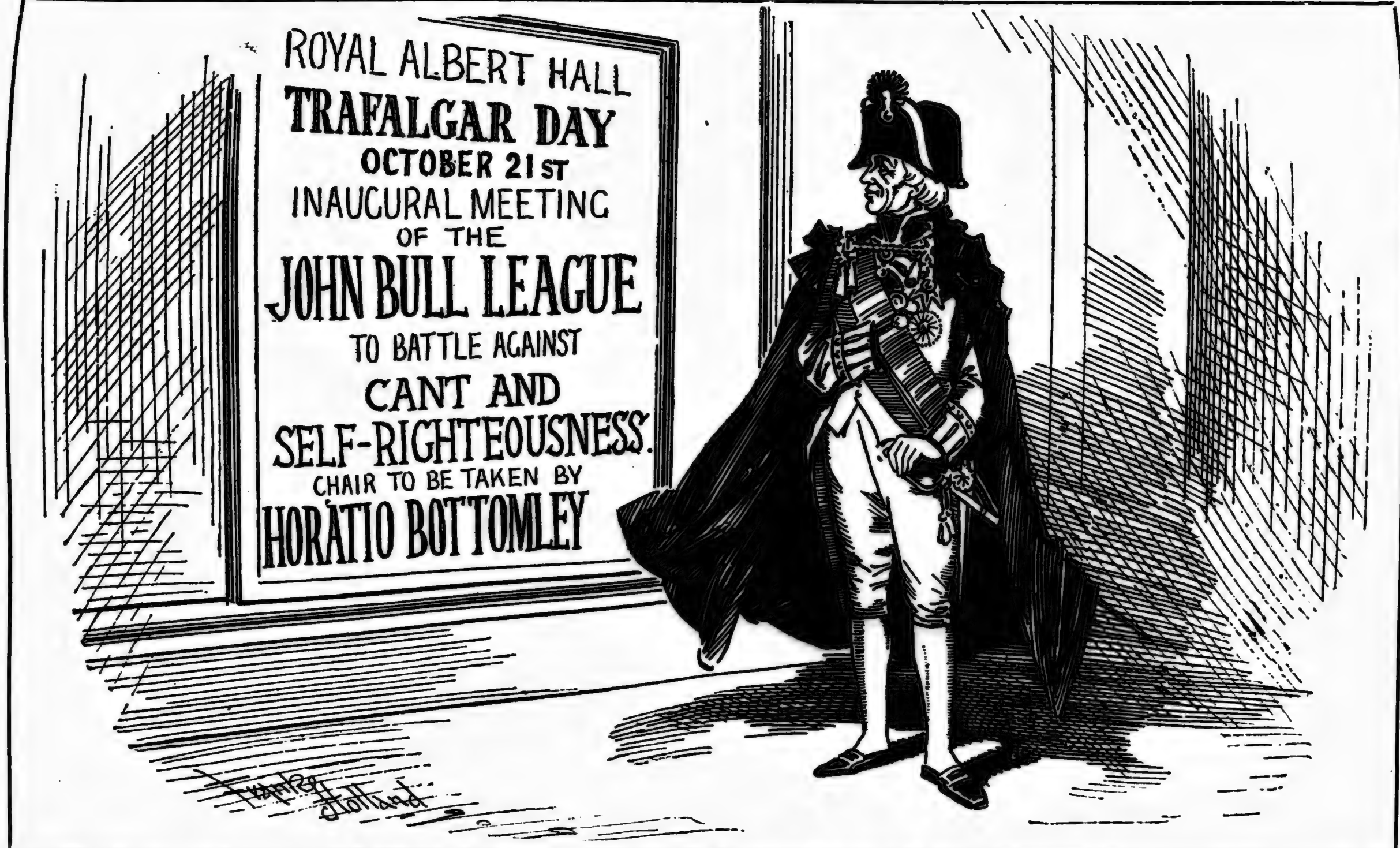
We have received copy of a correspondence that has passed between Lieutenant Shackleton and W. C. Reeder and Co., Limited. It opens with a letter from Messrs. Reeder and Co., dated August 6th, in which, referring to the mooring of the *Nimrod* above London Bridge, they ask Mr. Shackleton to give them the work of taking out the masts for the purpose of enabling the *Nimrod* to get above bridge. "Being thoroughly experienced in mast and rigging work," they write, "we can assure you every satisfaction, as we did with the *Success*, and carried out all the necessary repairs to her."

Mr. Shackleton, in reply, under date August 11th, asks Messrs. Reeder and Co. "what draught of vessel could go through at low water level up to Westminster Bridge, and what height from water-line would be sufficient to clear the bridges?" And also what their charge would be for taking the topmasts down.

On August 13th, Messrs. Reeder and Co., Ltd., reply, promising to send the information in a day or two, and on August 16th, they sent it. On August 18th, Mr. Shackleton asks for further information as to whether the *Nimrod* can lie at low water without touching the mud with a draught of 15 ft.? And the cost of taking out the lower masts and refitting them and the topmasts also? On August 20th, Messrs. Reeder and Co., Ltd., sent in the estimate, as requested, and next day they are informed that the work had gone elsewhere. Whereupon they write to Mr. Shackleton a letter in which they say, "after the correspondence between us with respect to taking above vessel through the bridges and stationing her up the river and giving you all the information you required (which we alone were enabled to do, through our experience with the *Success*), we are greatly surprised to hear that the work has been given to another firm without the option being offered us of giving you a definite estimate. The prices we have already given you were only approximate ones, as you asked for, before the arrival of the vessel, and we cannot but think, under the circumstances, we have been treated with very scant courtesy. We telephoned to your people on Saturday, and they promised to let us know on Monday if we telephoned, which we accordingly did, and were informed that the work had passed us. We subsequently found out that the work had been started with on the Saturday."

Messrs. Reeder and Co., Ltd., seem to have been treated very cavalierly.

"England expects that every man this day will do his duty"——



— AND JOIN THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE!

THE HURLY BURLY.

By Theodore Dahle.

ASPECTS OF EQUILIBRIUM IN ALCOHOLIC GYMNASTICS.

The Atherstone magistrates—where Atherstone is I know not, and who the magistrates are I care not—have been called upon to decide one of the most important questions in the social life of the free-born British citizen. To wit, "Is a man drunk because a policeman, or even two policemen, say so?"

The facts are simple. One Bill Riley, a Polesworth haulier, was summoned to their seat of judgment to answer the charge of being woefully inebriate while driving a horse and trap. Undoubtedly it is forgivably wrong for a man to get drunk while in charge of himself, even though he be a duke or a deacon; but were I a magistrate, I should certainly incline to speak in a severe tone of voice to anyone proved before me to have been drunk while in charge of a horse and trap. In the one case the most and the worst a man normally does do is to cuddle a lamp-post, refuse to go home till morning, or lean up against a wall in order to support a tottering world; in the other he may dislocate the traffic, run over a Cabinet Minister, a Tariff Reformer, or a Suffragette, and crack his own skull ere he ends his wild career. If, therefore, the allegation had been proved against Bill Riley, I should have said he had got off cheaply for ten shillings and costs.

But if ever an allegation wasn't proved, that was it. What Bill went through in the effort to establish his innocency would have appalled many a stouter heart. It must have appalled many a high-minded citizen conscious of having spent threepence on Scotch. Yea, even many a teetotaler, whose only tipple is the wine of the luscious black currant and the nectar of the exquisite elderberry. Conscious that he was never more sober in his life, Bill signalised his arrival at the police-station by demanding a doctor. The doctor came, and he was Smart; in point of fact, Smart, of Polesworth. If he had been a Professor of Gymnastics he could hardly have put Bill to greater physical inconvenience in the sacred cause of justice. In the presence of the police, Dr. Smart made him walk up and down the yard several times; on each occasion Bill illustrated the matchless beauty of the straight line. Dr. Smart told him to "bend with his head to the ground three or four times"; Bill responded with an exhibition of physical culture which would have gratified the heart of the Commander-in-Chief of the Blue Ribbon Army. Dr. Smart ordered him to walk back and forth while bending; Bill's footsteps were immediately heard in the tense silence, beating out the faultless rhythm of the poetry of motion. Finally Dr. Smart told him to say "British Constitution"; Bill pronounced the majestic words with the distinct utterance and patriotic feeling of a Unionist orator working off a peroration on the masses, and my own opinion is that he would not have failed even if he had been required to say "truly rural" ten times in one second, or relate the touching story of the far-famed Peter Piper who picked a peck of pickled pepper.

In addition to the evidence concerning Bill's magnificent gymnastics and articularities, and that of two witnesses, both teetotal, one a local preacher, who testified to Bill's delightful sobriety, Bill offered to the Court an intellectual argument of his own, based upon the unassailable rock of personal experience. "I only had six pints," he said, "and I can drink ten without getting drunk." That, to my mind, was the final link forged in the long chain of innocence, and Bill should at once have been permitted to leave the Court without a stain on his equilibrium. Alas! that it was forged in vain. The police had spoken. The police had sworn. The police had judged. Bill was callously convicted and monstrously mulct.

My heart goes out to Bill, for I regret that so great a wrong should have been done to one who keeps so careful a count of his limit. He can drink ten pints without getting drunk, yet he is run in and convicted for drinking only six. A more discreditable discouragement of self-sacrifice I have never heard of. It was enough to make him fly to the whole ten. I cannot conceive of a man going through a series of artistic gymnastics and vocal performances under medical supervision while he is drunk. Such a thing is as unthinkable as that, having gone into the deepest deeps of the well in search of truth, I should find the crystal spring in the bosom of a policeman.

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THROAT AND LUNG TROUBLES

Those suffering from any of these diseases, either in the incipient or advanced stages, generally, at this time of the year, experience the symptoms more acutely, the pains in the chest are more frequent, or the cold on the lungs seems more difficult to obtain relief from.

If these symptoms, no matter however slight they may seem, are allowed to continue, the sufferer is taking the risk of developing a disease which in time may prove incurable, but if a remedy that has already proved its efficacy in the treatment of thousands of cases of Asthma, Catarrh, and Consumption, even in the advanced stage of the diseases, is applied, progress is not only checked, but the complaint itself is completely driven off.

Such a treatment as the one above described is that of Dr. Derk P. Yonkerman, the discoverer of a cure for Consumption, which has been rigidly tested in England, America, and Australasia, and conclusively proved to be a cure for Asthma, Catarrh, Throat and Lung Troubles, and even cases of Consumption which had been pronounced hopeless of cure by friends and physicians alike, and in which change of climate had failed to produce any beneficial results.

All those who suffer from any affection of the throat or lungs may test the remedy free of cost by simply asking the Derk P. Yonkerman Co., Ltd. (Dept. 62), 6, Bouverie Street, London, E.C., to send a trial treatment. This will be immediately sent, carriage paid, absolutely free, and the enquirer incurs no liability to the company in any respect.

Do not wait if you have any symptoms which may lead to Consumption, but write to-day for the free trial, and Dr. Yonkerman's booklet on the treatment of lung troubles, while yet you have time, and remember this treatment does not in any way interfere with your daily habits or occupation.

—[Advt.]

The National Share Exchange.

The National Share Exchange begs to thank JOHN BULL *for the publication of the result of the investigation by its Special Commissioner, which appeared in its last issue, dated Saturday, October* 16. *The National Share Exchange also desires to thank the "Financial News," "The Critic," "The Englishman," "The Pepper-Box," "Modern Man," and* 12 *other critical London newspapers, as well as the Editors of over* 200 *other periodicals, for similar notices. The National Share Exchange now extends its invitation for a complete and thorough investigation of its personnel, methods and system of doing business to every London and Provincial daily paper in the United Kingdom.*

£270,190 Paid to Clients

THE NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE, of Great Winchester Street, London, E.C., the largest firm of Stock and Share Dealers in the United Kingdom, which has paid Clients during a period of $2\frac{3}{4}$ years no less a sum than £270,190, are going to create another record in the financial world.

No other firm can say:

1. We have never delayed payment for one single hour during the past five years.
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We can furnish bankers' references, showing that we are worth at least treble the amount of this undertaking, that we have paid clients over a quarter of a million sterling, that we have received over 200 favourable Press opinions, and upwards of 5,000 unsolicited testimonials from clients.

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TO THE SECRETARY,
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Gt. Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me (as my name is not already on your books) full particulars of your £15,000 guaranteed undertaking, as well as a list of cheques, totalling £270,190, which you have paid clients acting on your advice since January, 1907.

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HUMAN DOCUMENT.—LXV.

A PLEA FOR A FALLEN BUS CONDUCTOR.

We have received the following letter from John Dann, of 19, Raverley Street, Devons Road, Bow, London, E. It is different from most of the Human Documents we have published. Dann admits that the immediate cause of his present plight is his failing to account for moneys received by him on a particular day as the conductor of an omnibus. It is not for us to defend an action of this kind. He who succumbs to temptation must pay the penalty, but, as anyone who reads this letter will see, there are many mitigating circumstances in this case. So many, indeed, that only the perfect among us, wherever they may be, are entitled to use harsh language about it. A long and honourable record as a soldier; a less long, but still a long and honourable record in civil employment; and the fact that the company actually had more of Dann's money in its hands than the sum he failed to account for, not to speak of what seems to be real regret and repentance on his part, for his slip—these are mitigating circumstances, and warrant, as we think, our inserting Dann's letter in the hope that someone of our readers may have it in his power, and may be willing, to give him another chance by offering him employment that will enable him to live outside the workhouse.

As an old reader of your valuable paper, I have often been touched by the stories of suffering and want as told in your Human Documents, but I never thought that I should have a tale to tell almost as bad, if not as bad, as some of them, only there is a difference. Most of your poor fellows whom you have helped have been honest, straightforward cases, mine is not. I will relate briefly, if you will allow, the story of my downfall. At the age of eighteen I joined the Royal Artillery and stayed in the regiment from 1891-03, leaving with character marked "*Exemplary*. A reliable and hard-working N.C.O.," my rank was corporal. I obtained employment with R. S. Hudson, 83, Worship Street, E.C., and left them in 1904; was given a good character to E. Cook and Co., Ltd., soap specialists, Bow, with whom I stayed till 1908; they gave me a good character when the police (to whom I had applied for a licence) called to see them. I then obtained work as a conductor with the L.G.O. Co., Ltd. I soon found out that a conductor's life was not as most people imagine it is. When I started, conductors were not paid for breakdowns, and I have often taken a 'bus out and been out all day and earned under a shilling, and this for fifteen hours' work; out of this take money for your food, and what is left for the family at home? On July 6th (this year) I failed to pay in a journey's takings (29s.). What made me do such a mad act, God only knows. I wandered about London for a fortnight, and then returned home to my wife and child. I immediately wrote the company so that they should know where I was, in case they wished to prosecute me; but they would not do so. Then came the struggle. I could not get employment, owing to loss of character. Day after day have I tramped London; each day I get shabbier, each day is harder than the preceding one. I applied to the Church Army (as they say in their appeal for money that they help the fallen). They sent me to their Bow depot, where the official in charge told me he had nothing for me. I saw him the other day, when he repeated this. Where is the help these people say they give to the fallen and disgraced?

I have sold my home. When I returned I had three good rooms of furniture; now I possess the kitchen furniture and a bedstead with a little bedding. Last Thursday I received notice to quit, as I owe the landlord 52s. rent. Sir, what am I to do? Is there no man? Is there no association? Is there nothing in this wealthy London of ours to save a man who has made one mistake in his life from going to the dogs? My career until this was good; overwork and constant worry had a lot to do with this. From the time a man leaves the yard in the morning till his return at night it is one constant worry. I may point out that the company had 19s. wages of mine, and also that I was legally entitled to a good sum from the accident club, so really I am nothing in their debt; but I did wrong nevertheless. I am asking you as the last hope—can anything be done for me? I am a strong, able man, and will atone for this wrong-doing. I want a fresh start so that I can once more hold my head up amongst my fellow men and keep my wife and child in the comfort that they have always been used to. I have enclosed my characters, to prove to you that I was a good soldier.

With refererce to Human Document LXII., we have received postal order for 5s. from C. S. T. (Carlisle). Also two letters from readers offering to take the child. We have forwarded both the postal order ard letters to the proper quarter.

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STOMACH AND LIVER

When your head is dull and heavy, your tongue furred, your bowels costive, and you awake in the morning fagged and worn out, with no relish for breakfast and dreading your work.—When you feel done-up and good-for-nothing, have no appetite, no energy, no interest or ambition, your stomach and liver need help and need it sorely. Indigestion is poisoning your blood and sapping your vitality. You need the digestive tonic—

MOTHER

SEIGEL'S SYRUP

Mother Seigel's Syrup will cure you. It will clear your head and clean your tongue, renew your appetite, stimulate the action of your stomach and liver, regulate your bowels, make food nourish you, and give you new strength, new energy, new life. As a digestive tonic and stomachic remedy it has no equal.

CURES INDIGESTION

INVIGORATES THE SYSTEM. PURIFIES THE BLOOD.

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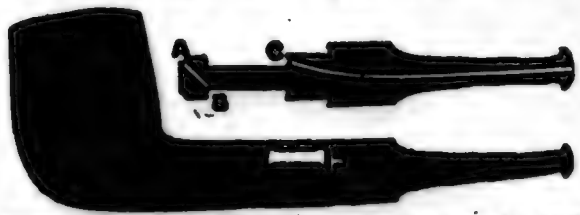

Have you not tried many patent pipes in your time and found them ALL unsatisfactory? TRY the MOST PERFECT pipe yet invented and procure one, to your lasting benefit.

THE most fascinating pipe for Smokers. Cleaned in two seconds. No soiling the hands. The nicotine has to pass through stem from A to B, the smoke is drawn up through C, therefore ensuring a perfectly cool and pure smoke. Made in six shapes—bent and straight.

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165 LADBROKE GROVE NORTH KENSINGTON W.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

"SIR WALTER RALEGH."

If it were only for the great acting powers of Miss Winifred Emery as Queen Elizabeth, who has never done anything better in all her artistic career, William Devereux's "Sir Walter Ralegh" play, produced at the Lyric Theatre by Lewis Waller, would be hailed as a welcome event. Miss Emery's "Good Queen Bess" is a fine, vigorous and imposing study. The actress flings to the four winds any idea of subtlety and plays the part, as it should be played, in a straightforward, splendidly melodramatic fashion.

And her reading is right, for Mr. Devereux's work is real and first-class melodrama. When William Devereux's romantic play, "Henry of Navarre," was offered to Waller for production, he refused to have anything to do with it, so it is not surprising, considering the enormous success—both artistic and financial—achieved by Fred Terry and Julia Neilson with this Huguenot play, that Lewis Waller, realising his mistake, should commission Mr. Devereux to write a drama for him "precisely on the same lines."

And the author has done it, too, for "Sir Walter Ralegh" is foster-brother to "Henry of Navarre," although it certainly lacks a little of the polish of the latter, and, at times, is inclined to be over "talky," but when some of the long, unnecessary speeches have been curtailed, and a few of the corners chipped off and made round, there is no reason why it should not enjoy the popularity that the exhilarating melodrama written around the adventures of the French king instantaneously attained.

There is no dearth of strong situations in the "Sir Walter Ralegh" romance; there they come, one after the other, with amazing rapidity, and each act is a little drama in itself.

As for accuracy, Mr. Devereux has discarded it freely, and has built his story most cleverly around the little clippings of historical facts associated with his hero. He has made Sir Walter an "ever-ready to die for his Queen" sort of chappie, who cuts a magnificent figure both in love and war; consequently the liaison between Ralegh and Elizabeth Throgmorton—which history declares redounds to anything but Sir Walter's credit—has been "cooked" into an ideal one for the love-making passages of Lewis Waller.

As the courageous, loyal, patriotic and ardent Walter Ralegh, Lewis Waller gives an admirable account of himself, and will doubtless give a still better performance when he has recovered from the natural nervousness of a first-night production.

Of Miss Emery's brilliant acting I have already spoken, and praise should also be extended to C. W. Somerset, who, as the villain, shows what a clever character actor he is.

I must say I was a little disappointed with Miss Lilian Braithwaite as Elizabeth Throgmorton; she strikes too modern a note throughout.

But, if I mistake not, "Sir Walter Ralegh" will, with all his little faults rectified, live a long and prosperous life at the Lyric, and his triumphs will owe much to the wonderfully fine acting of Winifred Emery as Queen Elizabeth.

"THE FOLLIES"

Mr H. G. Pelissier undoubtedly possesses that greatest of all things necessary to ensure success—the gift of tact in understanding his audience. He says to himself, "Oh! hang it all, there's surely misery, sorrow and 'cursed realism' enough outside the theatre without compelling people to endure more of it. I'll give my friends a dish full of good, palatable, wholesome bon-bons, which will make them enjoy their evening; to Hades with the fiery 'nips' of realistic spirit that drive you to the torture chamber of misery and pessimism."

And the delighted crowds which throng in such countless numbers to the Apollo Theatre are ample proof of the manner in which the deliciously-flavoured sweetmeats, presented by "The Follies," are eaten and appreciated.

The new plays Mr. Pellisier has just "potted" are Conan Doyle's "Fires of Fate," and Messrs. Raleigh and Hamilton's Drury Lane drama "The Whip," about which last-mentioned play we may hear more anon, for I believe the Drury Lane dramatists have sent a solicitor's letter to "The Follies'" "leader" demanding why and wherefore their property has been burlesqued without first asking "permish."

At any rate, for the moment the brilliant Follies' troupe is daring to tread on Tom Tiddler's ground; whether or no they will be permitted to stay there for long is another thing, but for the time being the potted "Whip" is the "plat du jour," so hurry up and get a "good digestive" from old Drury's latest while you can.

For other novelties in Mr. Pelissier's bon-bon box there are enough to satisfy the most greedy lovers of wit in all sorts, shapes and conditions; in fact, from the time the people are seated in the Apollo Theatre to the moment of their departure, the merry little god of fun waves his fairy wand and tickles them into paroxysms of uncontrollable laughter.

Readers of JOHN BULL who are interested in electrical subjects or require information of a technical nature should buy *Electricity*, a penny weekly journal which gives sound, reliable trade news.

Have you had one of the 20,000 Free Tins of "Lifebelt Coffee?"

"Lifebelt" Coffee is the Coffee freed from Caffeine. It causes no palpitations, no Flushings. Drink it for your health's sake. Strongly recommended by Doctors, because it is the only absolutely non-poisonous Coffee on the market.

A short time ago, readers of JOHN BULL were told of a new process which had been discovered for extracting the *poisonous* drug Caffeine from Coffee—a process so important that it is likely to revolutionise the whole coffee industry. Every medical man knows the value of the discovery, because doctors are constantly finding it necessary to warn their patients to give up coffee entirely—*not* because of the coffee itself, for coffee is a harmless and most beneficial beverage, but because of the *Caffeine* in the coffee. You can now drink and enjoy coffee without the slightest fear of ill after-effects. Everyone can—even those who, under medical advice have been obliged to give up their favourite beverage. If you think this too good to be true, send for the free booklet and read the numerous reports from medical men, heads of hospitals, and others. And, bear in mind, these only represent a few of the testimonials received. Already over 2,000 doctors have endorsed "Lifebelt" coffee, and many of them are now using it regularly in their own households.

Here are two or three extracts. We could fill this page full of similar letters.

Her Royal Highness the Princess R. of S. in P.:—

"I have to thank you very much indeed for having brought to my knowledge the 'Coffee freed from Caffeine,' because I do love coffee, but I was not allowed to have any. Whenever I took it my heart was very seriously affected, so much so that my physician forbade me the use of it altogether. Since taking your 'Coffee freed from Caffeine,' I am quite happy, because, instead of the former poisoning which ordinary coffee always caused me, I do not feel anything but perfect ease and comfort."

A doctor states:—

"I am convinced that every physician will, and must, recommend your coffee, not only to all those who suffer from the heart and nerves, but also to all healthy people, as a prophylactic measure."

"I beg to thank you for the sample of your Coffee freed from Caffeine which you kindly sent me. I have given it a thorough trial, and am very pleased to tell you that, while ordinary coffee gives me trouble with the heart and the intestines (although I have a very sound heart), such was not the case with your preparation, even when taken in the strongest concentration.

"Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) Dr. L., Surgeon-Major."

"About a fortnight ago, I had a ¼-lb. sample of your Coffee for trial. I kept it for my personal use, and I am glad to say it has had no ill effects on me. I have not been able for over 20 years to take a cup of coffee, and I need not tell you how I have thoroughly enjoyed your L.B. Coffee, which has not produced the terrible backache I had after partaking of the ordinary Coffee."

Please remember that "Lifebelt" Coffee is not a Coffee substitute. It is *real* Coffee, from which the *poisonous* drug Caffeine has been extracted by a patent process which neither destroys the flavour nor the aroma of the Coffee; in fact, many connoisseurs affirm that the beverage is improved by it. The Booklet gives full particulars; but if you wish to test the Coffee yourself we are willing to send you a full-sized

¼-lb. Tin Free

the only condition being that you enclose 3d. to cover the bare cost of the postage and packing. This tin contains sufficient to make from twelve to fifteen cups of good Coffee. We are inundated with applications for these large tins, and can only send one to each address. Kindly fill up the Coupon, or write to-day if you desire one.

"Lifebelt" Coffee is sold by Grocers at 1s. 6d., 1s. 9d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb., in the whole berry or ground, and in all growths—Mocha, Java, Costa Rica, East Indian, etc.

Insist on "Lifebelt" Coffee—always. Sooner or later the ordinary kind, containing the poisonous Caffeine, will prove deleterious to your health, even though no apparent harm is occasioned now.

TRIAL COUPON.

TO THE LIFEBELT COFFEE CO., LTD. (Dept. 36),

71, Eastcheap, London, E.C.

SIRS,—I should like to try the Caffeine and Chicory free pure "LIFEBELT" COFFEE, and accept your offer of the ¼-lb. trial Tin. I enclose 3d. stamps for postage and packing of Tin.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

"J.B." 23-10-09. .....

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

A Four Per Cent. Bank Rate—Future Gold Movements—How Long Will the Wall Street Gamble Last?

The Continental gold hunger and prospects of further attempts by the Wall Street financiers to raise loans in London for the prosecution of their huge gamble in Steels, American Rails and Coppers forced an advance in the Bank Rate to 4 per cent. sooner than was at one time anticipated. Even now it is necessary for the Bank of England to bring up the outside rate nearer the official minimum by borrowing on securities to turn the Continental exchanges sufficiently in our favour for the Bank to secure the weekly arrivals of South African bar gold. Last week the Bank lost a million of its stock of gold coin, and withdrawals since will even exceed that sum. Egypt must, of course, have her gold for moving the splendid cotton crop, but Brazil, Argentina, and Russia will probably wait for the turn of the year. What our Yankee cousins may want it is impossible to say, but there is a strong disinclination amongst bankers here to assist the outrageous speculation. I daresay that the Wall Street wire-pullers will succeed in putting Steels up to par, as they declare they will, for they hold the bulk of the stock. But what then? Who will take the stock off their hands again? It is to be regretted that operators here will every now and then put their heads into the noose by selling "Bears" of Steels, thus facilitating the American manipulation temporarily. Readers of John Bull will, I trust, heed my warning and leave Steels and American Rails alone on the "Bull" or "Bear" tack. I am still in favour of *Canadian Pacifics*, now again up at 192, a quotation of 109⅛ instead of 190⅛ in last week's issue having obviously been a printer's error. Yet a correspondent suggests that this palpable mistake might play into the hands of the "Bears"! *Western Canada Land* shares, which I recommended last week at 23s. 9d., are up at 26s., and *Southern Alberta* are firm at 35s. *Egyptian Delta Lands* at 37s. seem promising.

A Bird's-eye View of the Stock Markets—What to Buy and What to Avoid—More About Premium Bonds.

Foreign Government stocks are steady, with the exception of Spanish Fours, which are dull at 93 on the Ferrer incident and the disturbances caused by it in Italy and France. In fact, the Paris bourse temporarily lost its optimism and discontinued purchases here on these manifestations. It is another case of the shyness of capital. Gilt-edged securities are weak quite as much on the rise in the Bank Rate as on Home politics and the coming election wrangle, and Consols at one time touched 82⅝, the lowest price since 1907, when 80¾ was touched on the American financial crisis. Home Rails are weak all round on poor traffics and the determined efforts of Jupiter Pluvius. It will be advisable to keep out of these stocks until after the General Election. On the other hand, in Foreign Rails, such as *Mexican Railway* Second Prefs. at 79¾, in *Cartagena* (Colombia) mortgage debentures, now up to 77 on the very satisfactory amalgamation, and in leading Argentine Railway stocks there is a good prospect for progressive investment. Japanese 4 and 4½ per cent. stocks are also suitable for investment, and Peru prefs. should be bought on any reaction. Honduras are up to 12, as it is stated semi-officially that the settlement of the debt will go through. This is also probable in the instance of Guatemala, now up at 40¼; but the Costa Rica settlement is put off until May next, when a new President will take office. Finally, Rhodesians, Kaffirs and Jungles should be carefully watched as likely to promise big profits. By the way, may I ask readers of John Bull who seek my advice to read my article very carefully, as in many cases it supplies already the answers to their questions? The paragraph on Premium Bonds on October 9th has brought me such an avalanche of letters and documents, that I am compelled to merely return the documents by post, together with the name of a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, who make a speciality of these bonds, and who can give them every information. Personally, I am by no means enamoured of such bonds, as I should prefer good interest to very small interest, even though it carries the fascination of the varying chances of the drawing of bonds for redemption with it. But I repeat, beware of the bond pushers in Paris, who charge far above market prices.

How to Select Investments—A Hint to File "John Bull."

One way of relieving the much-congested "John Bull's Financial Letter Box" must commend itself to all intelligent investors. To meet their wishes for advice in the selection of investments I am giving tables of various classes of securities which seem for the time being wanted. It is as easy as possible to make a selection from these without having recourse to my "Letter Box," but for that purpose it would be necessary to file John Bull. I will explain. I gave on October 2nd tables of dividend-paying Kaffir shares, and one of highly-promising Kaffirs for a speculative "lock up." On October 9th I gave a list of other dividend-paying Kaffirs, of Foreign Government stocks, Foreign Rails, Canadian securities, and Egyptian stocks; on October 16th, at the request of several readers, Home Industrial debentures, Brewery Debentures, gilt-edged Home securities. To-day I have selected Home Industrial and Colonial Ordinary and Preference shares giving a high return. All these are carefully selected securities with the yield per annum added. Anyone desiring to make an investment, after having referred to one of the financial dailies to ascertain what changes may have come about in prices, if any, can easily spread the money over several stocks so as to insure the safety of the selection—always a desirable policy to adopt. Thus he could select the West Australian new loan, yielding £3 13s. per cent to give the little private trust a backbone, add *Argentine Buenos Ayres Water Bonds*, yielding £4 16s. 3d., *Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway* Ordinary shares, yielding £5 9s. 9d., *Rose Deep Gold Mining* shares, yielding £10 5s. (subject to length of life), *Canadian Pacifics*, yielding £3 12s. 3d., with a bonus of 10 dollars imminent, *Egyptian Delta Lands Investment* at 37s., and *Western Canada Land* shares at 26s. to give a little speculative touch, *Carlton Hotel* debentures, yielding £4 9s., etc. If the investor requires a higher return, he may even put his money in Home Industrial shares, as per table given to-day. I trust my readers will not take this little hint in bad part. It is as well that they should think for themselves, and I venture to predict that finally they will find quite a fascination in the course recommended.

Rubber Exploration Company.

Having gathered from enquiries to the "Letter Box" that a certain number of readers had, prior to my writing these financial notes, followed the strong recommendation given in John Bull to invest in the shares of the *Rubber Exploration Company*, I set myself to investigate the matter. The result is very satisfactory, the present position enabling me to corroborate the favourable opinion previously given. The company was formed some years ago for the purpose of rubber business, but the first experience was disastrous. Considerations of space preclude my entering into the whole history of the undertaking, but I have ascertained that it owns a large interest in a South African Land Company, and that it is the sole owner of the British patents of "Rapidin," the new motor spirit, which bids fair to make a great stir in the motor world. The interest in "Rapidin" is undoubtedly most valuable, and from the statements made to me it should enable the company to pay very high dividends. The potentialities are enormous, and I strongly advise all motorists to communicate with the secretary of the Rubber Exploration Company, at the offices of the company, 52, New Broad Street, E.C., and to investigate the merits of "Rapidin." Considering that this new motor spirit can be retailed at 6d. per gallon against 1s. 2d. for petrol, is more powerful, less explosive, and emits no obnoxious fumes, it should commend itself to the motor world. Under these circumstances a purchase of *Rubber Exploration* shares should give good results. In fact, since writing the above the price has risen to 1-1⅛.

Industrial Companies—Preference and Ordinary Shares of Good Value.

After their long period of neglect, Industrials are waking up again, and have attracted quite a considerable amount of business of late. Investors naturally have a predilection for their own securities, and therefore do not want much of an excuse for forsaking their temporary favourites in Foreign departments in favour of their Home markets. The Board of Trade Returns show a continuous improvment in trade and commerce, led, as usual, by the iron and steel industry, and followed to some extent by the textile trade. Any pronounced improvement in these two staple industries must, obviously, sooner or later benefit the other industries of the country, and those who take time by the forelock and buy shares in promising concerns, should do well in the long run, while also securing immediate returns in the shape of excellent yields. Last week I gave some tables of promising Industrial and Brewery Debentures.

Now my readers are asking for still higher-yielding securities. The following tables of Ordinary and Preference shares do not aim at covering the whole Industrial field, but as showing what opportunities are now offering here, they should amply fulfil the object in view:—

Ordinary Stocks.

Name.	Shares.	Amount Paid.	Dividend Per Ann.	Price.	Yield Per cent. Per Ann.
					£ s. d.
Callender's Cable and Construction ..	£5	£5	15s.	10½	6 15 0
Furness Withy ..	£1	£1	10%	15-16	5 0 0
Chinese Engineering ..	£1	£1	15%	2½	6 0 0
Millar's Karri (1902)	£1	£1	6%	1¼	5 6 9
Swan and Edgar ..	£1	£1	30%	2⅜	6 17 3
Van den Bergh ..	£1	£1	24%	2	5 16 3

Preference Stocks.

Assoc. Cement Pref. ..	£10	£10	11%	5	6⅜	8 10	9
Borax Cum. Pref. ..	£10	£10	11%		11⅛	4 11	9
Brit. Oil & Cake Cum. Pref. ..	£1	£1	11%		1	5 6	9
Brunner Mond Cum. Pref.	£10	£10	14s.		17⅛	4 0	6
Eastmans Cum. Pref.	£1	£1	16%		1⅛	5 6	9
Evans (D. H.) Cum. Pref.	£1	£1	12%		1 15-16	4 1	9
Gen. Motor Cab Pref.	£4	£4	10% (a)		3¼	10 13	3
Hope Bros. Cum. Pref.	£1	£1	11%		15-16	5 13	6

(a) Estimated.

To particularise on some of the above-mentioned shares, it might be mentioned that the Telegraph manufacturing trade continues to flourish, as is shown by the declaration of the *Callender's Cable* interim dividend of 5s. per share. *Van den Berghs* are doing very well, and the great drapery concerns, like *D. H. Evans* and *Swan and Edgar*, maintain their prosperity, despite American and other competition. Favourable reports are in circulation concerning the outlook for the *Associated Portland Cement Company*, as well as for the chemical and allied trades as represented by *Brunner, Mond and Co., Borax Consolidated*, etc. The *General Motor Cab Company* continues to do remarkably well, and the impending directors' report should fulfil the highest expectations. To go further afield, renewed prosperity has returned to the *Millar's Karri Company*, owing to some important contracts having been secured all over the world, conclusively demonstrating that the company's products have really no rival. Then there is the *Chinese Engineering Company*, whose present distribution is on a 15 per cent. basis, but which is expected to pay at the rate of 20 per cent. next year. At an extraordinary general meeting of the Henriquez Estates, on Monday, the resolution for the division of the existing shares into 10 shares of 2s. each was duly confirmed.

KAFFIRS STEADYING—NATIVE LABOUR POSITION IMPROVING.

If it had not been for temporary attacks of nerves on the Paris Bourse, for reasons already stated, both Kaffirs and Rhodesians must have braced up to a considerable extent. In the case of Kaffirs, encouraging advices concerning the native labour supply is a strong bull point. The first batch of the 3,000 natives being collected in British Nyassaland is due to leave Chinde for the Rand this month, while the recent conference on native labour in Cape Town is bound to have far-reaching results. It is further hoped that the Cape Government will eventually supervise the whole recruiting operations in its territories. Another important development which is quietly but surely making for increased profits and dividends is, as the chairman of the New Modderfontein pointed out at the recent meeting, the great increase in individual capacity of the batteries of companies. Three years ago there was only one company on the Rand crushing over 40,000 tons per month, while now there are fourteen, as the result of the amalgamations and enlargements of plants. As I have pointed out before, this brings lower working costs and adds large quantities to the payable ore. I mentioned the developing mines which, in my opinion, will more particularly benefit from these points, and therefore form an excellent lock-up, on a former occasion. The best are *Randfontein Central* at 2¾, *Randfontein South* at 2⅛, and very cheap at this, *Cinderella Deep* at 2⅜, *Bantjes Cons.* at 3¼, *West Rand Consols* at 27s. 6d., and *Simmer Deep* at 23s. 3d. The dividend-paying mines have here and there during the last few weeks declined fractionally. One of the cheapest shares is *Crown Mines*, the great Wernher Beit amalgamation, the shares being quoted 8 7/16. A rise in *Oceana* to 16s. 9d. is apparently due to a coming favourable directors' report and to a rise in *Mozambique* shares to 18s. 6d., of which the *Oceana* used to have a large holding. *New British Transvaal* shares have recovered to 4s. 6d. after the recent forced realisations. It appears that several syndicates representing influential interests have acquired all the ground surrounding the company's farm, Witclip, on the Far Eastern Rand.

PARIS AGAIN BUYS CHARTERED—RISE IN LOW-PRICED RHODESIANS—AMALGAMATED OF RHODESIA'S BIG FUTURE—AUSTRALIANS IRREGULAR—COPPER DOUBTFUL.

After a temporary set back, owing to a somewhat excessive speculative account, which has since been reduced, Paris has again been buying *Chartereds*, which stand at 2, while *Chartered Options* have recovered to 40s. 6d., and *Tanks* are quoted 6 7/16. At the meeting of shareholders of the Rhodesia Exploration Company, Dr. Sauer, the chairman, made some remarkably favourable statements when passing in review the company's interests, notably the claim-holding in the Shamwa proposition in the Abercorn district, the Eldorado Banket, Rowdy Boys, and Rhodesia Banket. As Mr. Jones, the well-known consulting engineer, believes, these all belong to the same series of sedimentary deposits; this would mean a kind of "Rhodesian Rand" 100 miles long. I mentioned last week the *Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia* as a very promising share at 8s. Dr. Sauer emphasised this statement especially with regard to the 1,120,000 acres of land and the 101 building stands, including some of the most valuable stands at Buluwayo, on which some of the principal hotels are situated, and wound up with the remark that, in view of the prospects for land owing to its being opened up, there was "a big future for the *Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia*." The shares have now improved to 8s. 6d., and will probably follow the example of other low-priced Rhodesians, such as *Etna Development*, which has risen from 7s. 6d. to 16s. 6d., and *Selukwe Columbia* from 1¼ to 1⅝. West Africans Mines are still a wavering market, and whenever South Africans are dull, Jungles turn weak. Yet one of these days they will brace up sharply, especially *Prestea Block "A,"* now quoted 32s. 6d., *Prestea Mines* at 9s., and *Gold Coast Amalgamated* at 4⅛. Amongst the Nigerian Oil shares, *British and Colonial Petroleum* Mines are moving somewhat irregularly, and *Great Fingall Cons.* at 31-32 are lower on a poor development report. *Myall and Peak Hill Gold* shares have, however, come into demand, rising 1s. to 3s., 3s. 6d. This is a New South Wales Company, which is coming into favour. By the way, I wonder why *Hudsons Consolidated* do not give a proper name to what they so mysteriously call their West Australian interests? The Wall Street wirepullers are also endeavouring, with Yankee Rails, to put up Copper and Copper Mines—a herculean task in view of the poor demand for consumption both in Europe and in the States, and an increase in the American stocks during September by over 7,000 tons.

NEW ISSUES.—GOOD, BAD, AND INDIFFERENT.

Some hesitation is evident on the part of company promoters as to bringing forward their new issues, owing no doubt partly to the rising value of money, and partly to the recent Socialist disturbances on the Continent, as well as finally here. There is still a procession of

Rubber Companies, as promoters of these naturally wish to take advantage of the present high price of the raw product. I notice that the Kimanis Rubber, Limited, the latest subsidiary of the British North Borneo Company, the prospectus of which was published in JOHN BULL last week, has been well received, the final batch of letters of allotment having been dispatched. There is now a new company on the stocks, the *Nilambur Rubber Estates, Limited*, in which 250,000 shares are offered at 2s. per share by the London Financial Trust, Limited. The company, it appears, was registered in 1909, with a nominal capital of £75,000 in 500,000 shares of 3s. each, of which 200,000 have been issued, and are now 1s. 6d. per share paid up. The shares are available in respect of an option to subscribe for shares, which was granted at the time the company was registered. It is a somewhat unusual proceeding to invite applications for shares on the part of a company which has merely an option to subscribe for shares; and I also notice that the property, which is situated in Southern India, has only of recent years been planted with rubber trees, the bulk of which are from under one year to two years old. Under these circumstances this does not appear a desirable investment. The *Allagar Rubber Estates, Limited*, is another company, of which no full prospectus is published, but merely particulars of the property. It is a concern which was recently converted into a sterling company, and the trees are at least older than those of the above-mentioned company; but I hope that the practice of publishing full particulars of rubber companies, which has been one of the satisfactory features of this industry, will not be abandoned.

The issue of the *Anglo-Egyptian Mortgage and Loan Corporation Debentures*, which I mentioned last week, has not yet been made, but the Turkish Loan will shortly be

issued through the Imperial Ottoman Bank, while the new Turkish National Bank will float in the near future a Constantinople Municipal Loan of £T1,000,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent. I am still awaiting the advent of the *Ebro Light and Power Company*, and of a new Cement Company, to be capitalised at a million sterling, based on a new process, which apparently will compete with the Associated Cement Company; but particulars of the process are not yet available. It is also stated that no less than £240,000 has been paid for the *Lonely Mine* in Rhodesia by Mr. R. R. Hollins, well-known on this side through his connection with the New Premier Diamond Mine. The money seems to go into the pockets of some fortunate prospectors, who thereby will be raised to affluence, and it remains now to be seen what Mr. Hollis will do with his new property. The latest Rhodesian flotation will be the Sinti Reefs in the Gwanda district, near the Bucks Reef Mine, but these shares will apparently be introduced privately. All the more reason why the greatest publicity should be courted.

The Cuban Telephone Company, authorised capital $10,000,000, issued capital $5,000,000, is just now before the public, as Messrs. Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell and Co., Ltd., are offering an issue of £1,050,000 5 per cent. First Mortgage Convertible Bonds at 92 per cent. I am somewhat surprised that our American cousins do not retain these Debentures instead of allowing them to go to London. Probably they do not consider the security quite as good as the prospectus puts it, and, after all, one does not yet know how the telephone will work in Cuba.

THE "EQUITABLE EXCHANGE."

Another Imitator of the National Share Exchange.

In a recent issue we exposed the methods of Macpherson, Brady and Co., who, imitating the stationery and circulars of the National Share Exchange, were endeavouring to trade upon the success of that institution. Our attention has now been called to the "Equitable Exchange," of "Empire House, Wormwood Street, and Union Court, London, E.C."—a somewhat high-sounding address, which on investigation turns out to consist of two or three very small rooms—which apparently is adopting similar methods. These people state that they are "the wealthiest and most reliable firm of stock and share dealers in the United Kingdom," a claim which we need scarcely point out is entirely without foundation. As a matter of fact, they have been established only a few months, during which time they have once suspended payment.

The proprietor of the Exchange is a person named Mills, otherwise Currie, otherwise Gordon. He has a partner named Simon, otherwise Bertram, otherwise Radcliffe Cousins. In some of these names we have frequently exposed the group, and we think it desirable to repeat our warning against them.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

Information will be readily supplied to readers of John Bull *on the following conditions:—*

(1) *Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor,* John Bull, *2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

(2) *Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, to which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.*

(3) *Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter. Communications received after Saturday cannot be dealt with in the current issue of the paper.*

(4) *Under no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.*

(5) *If inquirers wish it, the address of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.*

J. M. (Glasgow).—There is a prospect of al your shares improving, especially the South Africans, but you will do no harm in selling at proposed prices, unless you decide to sell the whole 100 Eastmans, instead of the 50, as you cannot expect much of a rise in these. *J. S. S.* Central Argentine Railway stock is quoted at 106, and is well worth keeping. The directors' report is out just now, and the dividend is again 6 per cent. for the year. *W. F.* (Watford).—I do not think very highly of this concern, especially from the point of view of the ballot section. *J. G. B.*—You must tell me whether you wish to put this money into home securities, or Foreign and Colonial. As regards the rubber shares mentioned, they would hardly be suitable, as they are highly speculative. *W. D. R.*—(a) I have received no complaints, but I cannot guarantee the safety of outside brokers. (b) You must tell me whether you wish to invest in Home or Foreign and Colonial securities. You must, of course, see that you get the documents for such shares or stocks you buy. *Currency.*—I cannot see any particular reason for the transfer. *Anxious* (Chiswick).—(1) Certainly, hold Central Uruguay. (2) The bonds have the Colombian Government guarantee, but they are not, of course, gilt-edged, or else they would not stand at 71. (3) Don't hold these rubber shares too long. (4) Speculative, but there has been influential buying lately. (5) Spies Petroleum are speculative, but with considerable possibilities. (6) Schweppe Def. are a fair investment of the kind. (7) Kalgoorlie Electric Pref are a fair inovestment. (8) Good of the kind, owing to their fine iron ore. Price 8½—9. Dividends of 30 per cent. *W. S.*—I do not see how I can help you in the matter of Higgs' Dairy Farm. It is a case for a solicitor. *Fairplay.*—If the amount is small, it must not be worth troubling about; if large, you had better try a solicitor's letter. *Indoctus.*—Randfontein Central at 2⅜, or Randfontein South at 2⅞. You will hear by post about the other matter. *Wynet.*—Your Kaffir shares Nos. 1 to 8 are good of their kind, and should be held for an improvement. You might, however, clear your profit in No. 4, Lydenburg Estates, which cost you 6s., and which have improved to 9s. 6d. The directors are not up-to-date. *H.E.B.*—Much depends upon the course of Home politics, but having seen Caledonian Deferred and South-Western Deferred down so much I cannot advise you to sell now. You will get a better opportunity. *Novice* (Leeds).—(1) There should be a recovery when you should sell. (2) The life of the Glencairn Mine is estimated at 12 years. *G.J.G.M.*—As No. 1 have declined so much, hold; also No. 2. There is a prospect of a reconstruction still. (4) Goldfields of South Africa are doing well, and will doubtless pay increasing dividends. Hold Ooregum. No reason to change No. 6 or 7. The latter (Rio Tinto) has just announced a better dividend (30s. per share). *Ferro.*—Brilliant Extended might be held. They pay 6d. dividend every two months. Price 9s. to 10s. *Wasp.*—Not dealt in here. Leave them alone. *Wales Drop.*—This unfortunately is one of the West Australian mines that have proved very disappointing. I think the directors of the White Feather Main Reef might as well forego their fees (£650) while the leases are worked on tribute and the shareholders get nothing, there being also no price for the shares. *A.G.S.*—The Amalgamated Press pay 40 per cent. on the Ordinary and 5 per cent. on the Preference. Pearson's pay 5½ per cent. on Preference and 15 per cent. on Ordinary. *S.M.N.*—You can do nothing with so small an amount, and had better keep it in your pocket if you don't want to lose it. (No. 1) Very doubtful. (2) Fair value. (3) The Ordinary are speculative. (4) Fair 4 per cent. Bonds at 80. (Nos. 5, 8 and 10) Outside brokers of doubtful character. (9) Quite so. *C.T.*—For the investment of your £500 you might buy Japanese 4 per Cent. Bonds and West Australian last 3½ per cent. issue. This would give you an average of 4 per cent. Leave Consols alone. *B.H.* (Waterloo).—The Hydro shares are not dealt in here. You must make your inquiries locally, where you obtained the quotations. *Boniface, E. J.*—I think you had much better make your investment at once. But you must tell me whether you want Home investments or Foreign and Colonial. *D.S.* (Banbridge).—Thanks for the information. There is no difficulty in dealing from any part of the country with London stockbrokers. *H.G.S.*—(1) Prospects of Whim Well Copper shares are unsatisfactory. (2) A fair West African mine, but speculative. *Reader* (52).—All fair investments are gilt-edged. *Heron.*—(1) Read the cables carefully. (2) *Daily Telegraph.* (3) Outside, but respectable. (4) What you require has been forwarded to you. (5) I cannot be responsible for the safety of outside brokers. *Doubt.*—I have received no complaints, but I cannot, of course, guarantee such firms. *E. N.*—(1) Almost hopeless as regards dividends. (2) Outside brokers, or else they would not circularise strangers, as members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to do so. (3) Mount Lyell are a fair mining risk, although copper is on the down grade. (4) I am afraid you would have to wait too long. *Camlachie.*—As requested, I have sent the name of a firm of stockbrokers, who are members of the London Stock Exchange. (1) A fair prospect. (2) Highly speculative. *Dick.*—(1 and 2) No, I should prefer Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia at 8s. (3) This is a very doubtful Mexican mine. (4) This will be duly announced. (5) Yes. *H. M. S.*—(1) By looking at the list at Somerset House. (2) Ditto. *Outside.*—You would only lose your money with these circularising touts, who prey upon the unwary. All those mentioned are tarred with the same brush. *Lex* (Chester).—(1) No, you would only lose your money in options with such people. (2) What you require has been forwarded to you. *A. S.* (Brixton Hill).—I am afraid you will have to sue these people of the Brixton Skating Rink. *H. E. H.* (Bradford).—This means that one 10s. share in the Crown Mines costs £8 15s., while the estimated dividend is 135 per cent. Three shares would cost about £26 5s. These are too heavy for you. For £20 you can buy at 2½ eight New Kleinfontein shares, which yield about 10 per cent. for 30 years. *T. D.* (Wales).—I have received no complaint, but I cannot guarantee the safety of outside brokers. *Tawe.*—No information is obtainable in London. You must inquire in Bolton. *Roneo Shares.*—The buyer is entitled to the dividends. *A. G.* (Epsom).—Circularising outside touts. Have nothing to do with them. *I. C. C.*—I have received no complaint against them, but I cannot guarantee the safety of outside brokers. *N. D. P.* (Wallasey).—(1) If you buy cum. div. the seller foregoes the dividend, and if he receives it he must refund it. (2) Grand Trunk Ordinary are £100 stock. (3) What you require has been forwarded. *Cuthbert* (Melrose).—Yes, Harmony Proprietary should be held. *Mrs. K.* (Nuneaton).—You should send your claim to the liquidator, but there will be very little to get back. *Johnnie.*—Johannesburg Cons. Investment are a good South African finance company, and the shares of £1 each stand at 1½. You will find some sound Industrial Debentures in last week's article. *I. L. F.* (Curragh Camp).—You must get some respectable foreign banker in London to search the drawn numbers. *Alpha Beta.*—(1) Yes. (2) Very likely. (3) A fair investment of the kind. *Constant Reader* (Petersfield).—If you send a stamped and addressed envelope I will forward the name of a foreign banker in London who will dispose of these Premium Bonds for you. *S. A. S.* (Wood Green).—I cannot reply by letter. The building society is one of the better class. *Square.*—I have received no complaint, but I cannot guarantee the safety of outside brokers. The letter is returned. *W. K.* (Southampton).—These touting circulars are all tarred with the same brush. Do not listen to the blandishments of Allison and Co., managers of the Anglo-American Investment Trust. *S. S.* (Reading).—Make your selection from the recent article. Roodeport United Main Reef and Rose Deep should suit you. (2) You might as well sell these West Australian mining shares. *Patsey.*—The price of Standard Copper has not fallen below £55 for years. Present price 57½. *Bisbon.*—As your British North Borneo shares cost you only par, you might as well clear your handsome profit. (2) No, the board is too slow. (3) Yes. City Deep are a good purchase. *Towcester.*—The Japanese 1905 4 per cent. Sterling Loan yields £4 7s. 9d., and 4½ per cent. First Series £4 11s. 3d., and both are suitable for your purpose. They were included in a little table in the recent article, page 482. *Sniff.*—(1) I am not partial to investment in the shares of building societies. Why not buy some of the Industrial Debentures as per October 16th table? There is nothing against No. 2. *H:K.*—There is nothing against holding your investments Nos. 1 to 5. The Bank shares are high-class. Leopoldina Company is doing well; Argentine dividends are maintained, and these shares should recover to your cost price. Hold also No. 6; and this is not the time to sell Nitrate shares Nos. 7 and 8, which may also recover. 9 and 10 are good investments. *Tyre.*—On no account sell your rubber shares; negotiations are going on which have already caused a sharp rise. *Constant Reader* (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—Thanks for kind wishes. For the investment of the £1,000 in question, you might distribute part over some of the Industrial Debentures mentioned in Oct. 16th article, and add some Japanese Government stock from the recent article, page 482, also two dividend-paying Kaffir mines, say, Rose Deep and Van Ryn, also from the table on page 483. This will give you a good yield with every guarantee of safety. *Union.*—No. *Taxi* (Bedford).—Write to the secretary and ask him to get you an offer for your shares. You will then perhaps get to the bottom of the affair. *Interested* (Redhill).—No, nothing is known about this here. *North Pole.*—I can only be responsible for my own recommendations, and not for those of other people. *S. C.* (Brixton Road).—No reason to sell. I cannot reply by letter. *B. C. O.*—Do not listen to the blandishments of these outside touts. You do not suppose that they are philanthropists? They would run against you all the time. *T. W.* (Finsbury Park).—Please to send the full title of the Company, and state how and when you bought the shares. *L. H.* (Manchester).—No, leave the concern alone. There is no prospect of a dividend, as the company was heavily hit over the outside failure. *Immortality.*—Sell the Electrobus and Coalite shares if you can. Do you want me to recommend you a stockbroker? Then buy some sound debenture stock for all your money, which will give you 4 per cent. or more.

Venus.—(1) It is no use waiting for Rhodesians, they are likely to take the bit in the mouth. (2) There are safer stocks. *Red Cross.*—I am afraid this cab company is doomed, as will, no doubt, be many of the other small concerns. I do not advise the purchase of Waldorf Ordinary or Preference. *L. J. M.*—I do not advise purchase of these mining shares. You can do far better in other South African mines already mentioned in my article. *Juno.*—(1) Fanti Mines are promising, but not the other West African. (2) Leave the diamond shares (3) alone. They are too speculative. *Dorset.*—For the investment of your £1,200 make your selection from the Industrial Debentures mentioned in my article, and add Japanese 4½ per cent. Government stock. A few South African dividend-paying mines, such as Langlaate Estates and Nourse Mines, might also be added. But your stockbroker will advise you. What you require has been forwarded by post. *A. W.*—This Rhodesian concern is no longer in existence. *Cator* (Perthshire).—You will find in to-day's article a table of Industrial Debentures, from which you can easily make your selection, while dividend-paying Kaffir mines are specially set forth in both the articles of October 2nd and October 9th, so that the selection will be quite easy for your £500. *A. S.* (Lindsay).—I am sorry I cannot help you in the matter of this lottery. *T. W.* (Glasgow).—You will find a table of industrial investments in October 16th article. *Stout.*—No, there are no clergymen on the board of Guinness's Brewery. *H. M.* (Newport).—The document is returned. You should have nothing to do with these Paris people. See October 9th paragraph on Premium Bonds. *E. K. W.*—General Motor Cab Preferred Ordinary shares at about 3⅜ are a good investment, but I do not like the others. *G. N. S.* (Westcliff-on-Sea).—You will do well to resist the blandishments of these outside brokers. *Norbrit.*—The British North Borneo Company has good prospects, but as you have a fine profit to take, you might as well do so before they reach the price you mention. *Parky.*—Amongst the various Rhodesian copper companies the most promising is the Consolidated Africa Copper Trust at about 12s. *T. M. J.*—Apex Mines are a fair mining risk, but you can do better in the Kaffir mines mentioned in my article. *D. O. P.*—I certainly should prefer Egyptian Estates to Vaal River gold. *Borsche.*—I must refer you to my article. As regards the firm in question, they are respectable outside brokers, against whom I have heard no complaint, but I cannot guarantee the safety of outside brokers. *K. C. B.*—You should write to Messrs. Effingham Wilson, of Royal Exchange Buildings, who are publishers of various guides and books. *C. A. H.* (Oxford Street).—Whiteley Preferred shares are a fair investment, but no catch. Jumbo Gold Mines are promising, but highly speculative. *H. Dover.*—(A) So far, I have not yet heard of the Primitive Methodist Chapel Aid Association 3½ per cent. stocks being on any Stock Exchange whatever. B and C seem to be fair investments of the kind. *Workman (J. F.).*—I am responsible for my own advice, but I cannot undertake to guarantee that of other people. *H. H.*—The firm mentioned by you is very respectable, and you cannot do better. You should steer clear of the Paris fraternity. *Money-Scraper.*—I think the amount of your savings is too small, and you should wait until it grows to a larger sum before you speculate with it. In any case, do not fall into the hands of swindling outside brokers. *Reader* (Lewes).—This was a bad recommendation. The mine has not gone well, having encountered a dyke, but as you have bought them at a high price, you had better hold them for the chance of a recovery. You would not improve your position by buying Geduld. *Anxious* (Dorking).—You have no reason to be anxious about your securities Nos. 1 to 6, which are satisfactory. *Nitrogen.*—I do not advise buying "Scrip. Indep.," as, although the price is low, the mine seems to be worked out. *No. Kelvinside.*—(1) You ought to be able to obtain satisfactory information locally about this concern, which is not known here. (2) It all depends upon the respectability of the management. *Sladedale.*—An outside concern, which probably has already shifted. I am afraid you will not get this money back. *Aberdonian.*—As you probably have a good profit on the Rubber shares, Nos. 1 and 2, you had much better sell now. The oil shares have possibilities, but are highly speculative.—*E. J. J.*—I know nothing against this institution. *Lydford.*—I think you had better keep your Entre Rios shares, as the company in the long run is likely to do well. *H. L. T.* (Wolverhampton).—I cannot hear very much against this Birmingham bank, and I should think that it would recover its position. *J. T. M.* (Kingston).—It is impossible to help you in the matter of the Paris lottery. *W. R.*—I do not like the West Australian shares, No. 1, but Boulder Perseverance (2) are a good lock-up. *Curel.*—(1) National Telewriter Prefs. are quoted ¼ dis. It is, of course, an untried invention. (2) I do not think much of the rubber shares, but the £1 shares, 10s. paid, are quoted 1-32 dis. to 1-32 pm. I have heard no complaints against a and b; but why don't you deal with a member of the Stock Exchange? *Mrs. E. S. G.*—This was a most unfortunate investment of yours. The English certificates of the Trans-Continental Transportation and Mining Co. are worth only 2s. to 3s. The company has shut down; it is just a question whether the tunnel would be useful for a railway. *Norse* (Birmingham).—(1) Yes. (2 and 3) You should make your selection from the Foreign Railway table in the issue of October 9th, page 482. You can get similar results from the little table of Kaffir dividend-paying shares, page 483. Oct. 16th list of Industrial Debentures is a thoroughly safe one, but apparently does not yield enough for you. (4) The business seems well conducted. *G. F. C.*—The contango would be at the rate of about 4 per cent. per annum. *Anxious* (Brompton Road).—(1) I do not like the system. (2) Michigan United Railway 5 per cent. Gold Bonds are fair value at 97-99, but they are not listed on the London Stock Exchange, which would make re-sale difficult. (3) £1 shares about ⅞, but they are not quoted here. Same objection. Why do you not deal with a member of the Stock Exchange? *G. S. R.* (Stamford Hill).—(1) Impossible to define prospects. Entirely dependent upon trade. (2) No, this is but a poor imitation of Coats. *Parata.*—Oceana Development a cheap land company; fully paid shares price 3s. 3d. to 4s. 3d.; might improve. *Norwich.*—Santa Marta 6 per cent. Debentures, a good Columbian Railway, price 93. There is little market for these. *H. H. H.*—(1) Pearks Pref. shares are quoted ⅝ and speculative. (2) Not advisable. (3) Doubtful in view of the Licensing Bill. *T. C.* (Stoke-on-Trent).—Nitrates are not flourishing now, but may recover. Lagunas Syndicate is the better of the two. Why don't you write to the stockbroker through whom you bought these? *C. W. E.* (Rawcliffe).—(1) Parke's Stores are at a low price now, ⅛—¼, probably owing to increasing competition. (2) I do not care for this concern, nor for its sponsors. Why do you not deal through a member of the Stock Exchange? *Nervous* (Loughborough).—Of the seven stocks, Nos. 1, 3 and 5 are fair value, especially the first. No. 4 is falling owing to competition; No. 2 not attractive; No. 6 very doubtful; No. 7 should not be touched. *Darkie.*—(1) No, don't buy any more; they are badly placed and not likely to improve. (2) Sell your Strand Hotel shares and take your profit. (3) Randfontein South at 2 5-16 are some of the most progressive Kaffir shares, which should grow into money. These are better than the others. *Novice* (Holyhead).—I really cannot answer this question. Do you wish to invest large amounts? *A. J. M.* (Liverpool).—I shall be pleased to send you the address of a respectable stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, if you wish it. *A. W. B.*—No market for any of the shares, but I will try to obtain further news. *League.*—There is no market for these shares here. Where did your friend buy them? *Lidgett.*—It all depends upon whether the anticipations in the report will be confirmed. *Extension.*—Yes, hold all your South African shares, Nos. 1 to 5, for a rise. E. A. S.—As you have accepted the contract, I cannot see how you can get out of it. You will have seen that I warned against these Paris people from the paragraph in the issue of October 9th, under Premium Bonds. The documents are returned. *L. S. D.* (No. 13, Bute).—I don't think much of it. *Cosmopolitan* (Leicester).—Sell if you can. *P. P.*—You had better invest the money in sound securities yielding about 4 to 4½ per cent., and if you have not a stockbroker, member of the London Stock Exchange, I can send you the name of one. *Dubious* (Barnsbury).—No reason to change your investments Nos. 1—4. *F. G. M.*—(1) I should think so. (2) They appear to be doing all right. (3) I gave in the issue of October 9th lists of Foreign Railway stocks, and I gave October 16th Industrial and Brewery Debentures which should suit you. They are readily saleable, but you will require a stockbroker. *Pacific.*—These shares are not dealt in here. Where did you buy them? *J. S.* (Glasgow).—I think your strictures are deserved, but it so happens that there are rumours that the Sheba Mine has just struck rich ore, and the shares have jumped to 7s. *Job.*—Try to sell the shares again, and don't in future deal any more with such people. There is no market for Golden Rhodesia. *Steels.*—You are mistaken in your claim, and the National Share Exchange is right. The Steel dividend was only $⅛, not $3½, and the opening price on the day mentioned was only 81. Option money is not returnable. The letters are returned. *I. S. M.* (Chelsea).—No, this is not the time to sell your Kaffir shares, Nos. 1—3. You will get a much better opportunity and the prices should improve. *Beverley.*—This company is no longer in existence. Did you not receive notice in 1907? *Stiff.*—These outside districts of the Transvaal are now coming into notice, and when this large property is being developed by means of the railway extension you will alter your views. *Anxious to Know.*—You will do well to consign Allison and Co.'s circulars *re* Anglo-American Investment Trust to the w.p.b., which is the best place for them. *A. L. S.*—You cannot get so high a percentage with safety. But D. H. Evans Ordinary yield £7 1s. per cent., Home and Colonial Stores Ordinary £6 13s. 6d. per cent. *S. D. B.*—Don't be hurried into such an exchange. If you will send a stamped and addressed envelope I will forward address of a London firm of foreign bankers who are thoroughly reliable and make a speciality of Premium Bonds. *A. W.*—You will do well to close this account as soon as possible and deal with a member of the Stock Exchange. But you can only deal with stockbrokers—not dealers. *S. Y.* (York).—Manchester Ship Canal Prefs. of £5 each stand at only 1¾—1⅞, and are no catch. *Tea Shares* (Surrey).—There is nothing against the tea shares Nos. 1—6. I should not advise placing more money into No. 7; but Continental Union Gas (8) is a fair investment. *M. R.* (Glasgow).—High rates of deposit are not compatible with safety. *A. B. X.* (Liscard).—I should think that the Home Railway stocks mentioned by you might eventually improve, but not yet. (1) Yes. (2) Perhaps. (3) No. *Paddy.*—(1) Leave New Vaal River Goldfields alone. (2) Forwarded. *B. J.* (Sutton Coldfield).—I do not object to the bonds, but the Ordinary shares are too speculative. I have received no complaints against the firm, but I cannot, of course, guarantee their safety. *Credential.*—No. 4 is the best. *Ad rem.*—I strongly advise you to leave Axim and Tarkwa Goldfields alone. *W. H. H.*—I am quite prepared to be responsible for my own recommendations, but not for those of other people. *Inquirer* (Kimberley, Notts).—(1) First-class Bank shares; no reason to sell. These newspaper shares are speculative. *F. P. W.*—I have not received any complaints concerning this firm, but I cannot guarantee their safety. *H. H. A.*—These debentures are not dealt in on the London Stock Exchange. Why do you not write to the Secretary for further information. *A Sufferer.*—I regret to learn that you cannot obtain any satisfactory reply from the Bourse and Exchange, 28, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. You had better send me full details of the Union Pacific transaction in question. *Jack* (Pontypool).—Yes, A and B (Chartered and Oceana) are a good purchase, especially on a reaction, but I do not think so well of C. You ought to know best about the Cornish Mines D, E and F, which are but little dealt in here. I don't think much of G. *Brevity.*—(1) You will get a better price after the present reaction for Chartered shares. Hold a little longer. (2) I do not like advising you to sell North British at such a sacrifice, but you might do better elsewhere. (3) Hold Johnnies. (4) You must study my articles. *Enquirer* (Bowes Park).—If you were to place the money in the Industrial Debentures mentioned in October 16th issue, you could easily sell out when you require the money, and it would be thoroughly safe. *Nanoya.*—As you may require the money at short notice, it would be preferable to leave it where it is, earning 4 per cent. per annum. The shares mentioned would not be so readily saleable. You cannot, moreover, get a high yield without risk. *S. B. M. H.*—City Deep (2) and Rhodesian Exploration (4) are the best of the lot, and might be conveniently bought now. *No. 4 Enquirer.*—I do not fancy Building Societies shares much in these times. Why not put the money into Industrial Debentures as mentioned in my article last week? *H. J. Z. D.*—I have nothing against the concern, but always remember that high rates of interest are not generally compatible with safety. *Anxious* (Surrey).—These rubber shares have recently reacted. Not knowing what you paid for them, I cannot well advise you, but if you have a fair profit, take it. *Watson* (Edina).—You will find what you require in the table of Industrial Debentures published last week. *T. M.*—The Rhodesian concern is a fair mining risk. The Cons. Goldfields of South Africa have a great future before them in view of their very promising investments. *Spirits No. 999.*—Thanks for your kind wishes. I am glad that you read my articles elsewhere years ago and that you "profited by them." It is not so much a question of the present yield, but if you disregard temporary fluctuations you will see the shares much higher. *Rex* (Wimborne).—You may be quite sure that these strangers who sent you circulars are not philanthropists. I give you Punch's advice to those about to marry—"Don't!" *J. D.*—You had better sell. *X. Y. Z.* (Bury).—I must confine myself to the responsibility for my own recommendations, and cannot be answerable for those of other people. *Hodge* (Suffolk).—You had better hold these shares; they should be worth more than present price. *Bera.*—I have heard of no complaints respecting Nos. 1 and 2, but I cannot guarantee the safety of such firms. *Nil desperandum* (Southport).—(1) Generally, in the case of amalgamations like the Nigel Deep and Sub Nigel, it is possible to get a better price after the arrangement has been carried out. (2) Hold for the present. (3) No option but to hold. (4) Henderson's Transvaal Estates are worth more than present price. Hold. *West African.*—Thanks. I do not think much of Simmer East, but Simmer Deep are a good investment. Amongst West Africans of the lower-priced class, Fanti Mines and Protea Mines should suit you. *Akwelsh.*—(1) You should hold these rubber shares; important negotiations are now in progress which will make these shares much more valuable. (2) Sell. *A. C.*—(1) No, this is a mine with a short life; leave it alone. (2) If you want a cheap Rhodesian, you cannot do better than select Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia at about 8s. 6d. *"Laz"* (Falkirk).—Both London, Austral, and General Exploration (1) and Zambesia Exploration (2) have good possibilities, but I do not care for No. 3. *Sidcup.*—The name of a respectable London firm of foreign bankers making a speciality of Premium Bonds has been forwarded to you. *Africa.*—Bank of Africa shares are a fair investment of the kind. The dividend has been reduced to 5 per cent., but the Bank should do better in future now that South Africa is becoming prosperous again. If you want to buy South African Bank shares, however, Standard Bank of South Africa would be preferable. *Crédit Foncier.*—Have nothing to do with these Paris people. You will no doubt have read the paragraph on "Premium Bonds" in the issue of October 9th. The address of a respectable London firm who make a speciality of these bonds has been forwarded in your envelope. *Doubtful* (Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Same reply as above. The documents are returned, as requested, but yaou should give these Paris people a wide berth. *R. M. R.* (Rochester).—(1) No, I do not recommend Axim and Tarkwa (1). The Diamond shares No. 1 are fair value but no catch, and the Argentine Land shares No. 3 are highly speculative, although fairly promising. *E. B. S.* (Babbacombe).—No, these Kaffir shares are not tempting, and you can do better in those mentioned in my article. *Solo.*—What you require has been forwarded. Clomfields are slowly recovering, but I do not advise buying any more. You can do better in other Kaffir shares. *Relatin.*—(1) You need not be afraid of the Ordinary shares in Buenos Ayres Western and Central Argentine. They are first-class and progressive investments. (2) Yes, it would be preferable to sell these Kaffirs as non-progressive and go into a more progressive mine with a longer life. There is no present prospect of amalgamation. *Mexico.*—(1) Yes, the El Oro is a good mining investment. (2) Clear your profit in Oroville Dredging. *W. S. S.* This is precisely what I pointed out in the article on Premium Bonds. These people charge excessive prices far above market value. *Anxious* (Bridgend).—(1) Sell these. (2) These should recover slowly. (3) Vickers Maxim are a sound investment. (4) There is a chance of recovery. (5 and 6) Hold Egyptian Estates and United Egyptian for an improvement, which is probable. (7) No option but to hold.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

Salvation Army Assurance Society.—J. H. Mc. (Belfast).—We should prefer another selection.

Legal and General Life Assurance Society.—Pikebu's (Uganda).—The society is in the first rank of insurance offices and offers excellent terms to its policy-holders.

Abstainers' and General Insurance Co., Ltd.—Bullite (East Kirby).—Yes, we think the house purchase system of this company an inviting one. The simplicity of the mortgage, the fact that the life policy bears a collateral security, and that moneys received in excess of the interest and premiums are credited in full in reduction of the mortgage, makes it popular. A. F. (Leicester).—If you are an abstainer, we should prefer this company to the other you name. Grocer (Dundee).—The company was established some quarter-century ago to conduct life assurance of every description upon the principle that abstainers from alcoholic liquors are throughout life entitled to a graduated reduction in premium. The company's tables for with-profit assurances for abstainers approximate to the non-profit rates of many companies.

Mutual Property Investment and Accident Co., Ltd.—H. W. (Ayr, N.B.).—The company was established in 1898. The authorised capital of the concern is £100,000, of which £39,238 has been subscribed and £18,749 paid up. *A. H. N.* (Anerley).—We should prefer another selection.

Provident Free Homes Assurance Co.—J. W. H. (Abergavenny).—It is a very respectable institution.

The Industrial Indemnity Corporation.—N. G. (Aldershot).—We cannot recommend it.

Independent Order of Foresters of Canada.—John Bull Reader (London).—Very low down in the list.

The First Dutch Insurance Co.—R. D. (Camberwell).—Particulars of this company appeared in our advertisement a few weeks ago. We have enquired into its position, and are satisfied that it is a sound and respectable institution.

The Gresham Life Assurance Society.—C. R. H. (Kingston).—We cannot recall the article to which you refer; but if you will let us know what point it is upon which you wish to be informed as to this society, we shall be happy to send you the information under cover.

National Old Age Pension Trust.—W. C. (Hampstead).—We have frequently said that in the absence of an actuarial statement, we cannot recommend readers to have anything to do with this so-called Trust. E. M. C. (Bethnal Green).—Ditto.

Industrial Indemnity Corporation.—F. E. W. R. (Bath).—The answer is in the negative. W. B. (Birmingham).—Ditto.

The Empire Guarantee Insurance Corporation.—Satisfied Reader (Tisbury).—You may confidently rely upon any guarantee given by this company.

Insurance Against Twins.—B. G. (Heckmondwyke).—Yes, it is possible to insure against the calamity of twins. Go to Lloyds. They will insure you not only against twins, but the still more horrible contingency of triplets.

Scottish Sickness and Accident Insurance Co.—A. B. (Caebra).—We should prefer another office. The company was established about two years ago.

Scottish Live Stock Insurance Co.—Ayrshire (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—It is a difficult position, and there was nothing in the then position of the company to justify the price you paid for the shares. We should accept the offer without fighting. We return your papers.

Sun Life Assurance Society.—J. F. (Oldham).—We think that both the plans of insurance and investment for the benefit of your little daughter submitted to you by the agent of the company are excellent ones, and give, in any circumstances, a good return for premiums paid.

Scottish Indemnity and National Assurance Co.—T. D. (Hove).—It seems to us that you are entitled to the bonuses for the time indicated in your letter; but why not write to the office about it?

The Self Help Insurance Co., Ltd.—Simplicity (London).—It is fair to assume that the company's letter to you of October 11th was written under a misapprehension. If, as you say, you have an acknowledgment of the payment of the premium, you should write at once to the company, and make clear your position.

Refuge Assurance Co.—A. J. W. (Nottingham).—If the agent told you that in the event of your wanting to leave the company at the end of three years you could "draw out quite as much as you had paid in," he told you what was obviously untrue, and what we should have thought you must have known must be untrue.

Workman and General Insurance Society, Ltd.—G. P. (Dalston).—The society was established in 1907. We are not able to say anything as to its funds. We should write again and press to know why they have not sent you the money to which you appear to be entitled.

City of Glasgow Assurance Co.—Enquirer (Newcastle).—We think you would be foolish to make the change advised by the agent. This company is a very sound one, and our advice to you is to remain with it.

Best Insurance Co.—W. H. S. (Shrewsbury).—We do not know any insurance company that would give you all you want as described in your letter; but the Yorkshire Insurance Co. would go as near it as any.

The Dreadnought Assurance Co.—J. S. (Wrexham).—The papers you send us respecting this company do not enable us to advise you that you should accept the offered directorship.

Two Insurance Companies.—J. H. J. (Beeston).—We cannot recommend either of them.

The City Life Assurance Co.—F. W. G. (Dorchester).—(1) It is quite true that this corporation is pushing its life business more than heretofore. (2) We advise you to hold on to your shares, which are likely to appreciate in value.

The City Life Assurance Co.—We have received from this company a tastefully got-up book of handy size, giving full information as to the various policies issued by the company. It is a manual of values which should be exceedingly useful to the agents of the company, and to others interested in it.

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"IN THE AIR."

NOTES ON AVIATON.

By W. PARKER.

A Sunday at Juvisy.

One-tenth of the entire population of Paris went to the Port Aviation Meeting on the 10th inst. The day deserves to be remembered as an example to all railway companies of "how not to do it." I started from the Quai D'Orsay about one o'clock, and got to the aerodrome at three. This was almost a record run, too, for the 12 miles. Many never saw the flights at all, and, after fighting round barriers and struggling with vast moving crowds all the evening, got back to Paris at midnight. My particular "Grande Vitesse" took four hours on the return journey. There were 21 people in the carriage, who grew visibly older during the journey, and arrived in a state bordering on insanity. It was a small revolution. A band of youngsters kept up their spirits by an exchange of mock civilities with the occupants of other trains which we passed, and which in turn passed us five minutes later, till we got to know them all like old friends. "Au revoir" we would shout as we began to move; "Au revoir et merci" would come politely from the others, amid bursts of laughter. One understands what good soliders these chaps must make. They probably chaffed like this at Moscow. When patience reached its limit they smashed everything in sight, and half the carriages had no windows in them the next day, but even this was done in a spirit of pure joy!

The Flying Itself.

One was so close to everything that even the unsuccessful flights were interesting. Paulhan and de Lambert made light of the little aerodrome, and sailed about easily, amid the frantic cheers of the enormous crowd. Gaudert and Nabat also did short flights, and, though the aviators were evidently a little nervous, the day passed off well from a flying point of view. As usual it was after three o'clock before anything was done, but the two hours between that and dusk were enough to please the public, who have now learned to understand conditions better than they did at the opening here last March. Our railway companies will take care not to repeat the experiences of Sunday, and by this time they will have fully realised what a colossal draw an aviation meeting is, and will be amply prepared. The starting ground at Juvisy is far from good, and is heavy with mud when it is not hard and "bumpy." As a commercial success this permanent aerodrome is secure, and no hesitation need be felt in inaugurating a similar one near London if a suitable spot can be found. The only difficulty will be to keep the people away.

The Law at Work.

The long-expected *coup* of the Wright brothers with reference to their patents has come off at last. Notice of action was served on the leading exhibitors at the Aero Salon this week, and the developments promise to be interesting. The proprietors of the French patents intend to enforce their claims with regard to the flexing of wings of aeroplanes, which they consider their legitimate property. To hazard an opinion, I should say the claim is too broad to be sustained. The flexing of the main wings is so much an integral part of flight that either the Wrights must control flying altogether or admit the principle to be one of universal application. The Voisins, of course, escape the general ban, but practically all others may have to fight, monoplanes included. Apparently the claim covers the entire field of wing-flexing machines and not those merely which conduct this process in conjunction with the correcting rudder movement. The flexing itself is operated in many diverse ways, some working each wing quite independently of the other, and clearly showing original conception throughout. It will be an interesting controversy. Meanwhile, the French constructors, with most of whom I have talked over the affair, are quite unconcerned, and seem to think nothing of it except as a bit of excellent advertising. We shall hear a lot more of the question, however, no matter how the point is ultimately settled. Why not fly for it, and settle the matter that way?

A Handy Little Present for Yourself or Friend.

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Made in BLACK, MOTTLED, or RED VULCANITE. SPRING NEEDLE. SMOOTH POINT. May be carried in any position. Write for Complete Catalogue. MABIE, TODD & CO., 79 & 80, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.; 93, Cheapside, E.C.; 95a, Regent St., W., London; 3, Exchange St., Manchester. 10, Rue Neuve, BRUSSELS; Brentano's 37, Ave. de l'Opera, PARIS.

GOLD REEFS EXPLORATION.

Large Profits and Substantial Dividends Foreshadowed.

Convened by the London directors of the Gold Reefs Exploration Company Limited (incorporated in Queensland), a meeting of the shareholders was held on the 12th inst., at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., "for the purpose of reporting to them the progress made on the company's property and the prospects of the company's mines." Mr. C. E. Alexander presided.

The London Agent and Secretary (Mr. George H. Saxon) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: You will gather from the notice convening the meeting just read that in some respects this meeting is somewhat different from the usual run of meetings, but, if any explanation were needed for requesting your presence here to-day, it is to be found in the fact that we have matters of vital importance to communicate to you. It is usual, as you are aware, at an ordinary statutory meeting to give a brief outline of the history of the company, but in the case of our company, which is registered under the mining laws of Queensland, your directors are prepared to cover a very much wider field, for they feel that the time has arrived when it is desirable to lay before you a complete statement regarding the history and progress of the mine. As a matter of fact, as our prospects are in the highest degree encouraging, there is no reason why the shareholders should not have before them every possible detail. This is a moment in the affairs of the company which may be described by the threadbare word, psychological. By that I mean that we are now on the eve of the commencement of crushing on a regular, systematic basis. That happy event may confidently be expected next month. Soon afterwards—you will not expect me to bind myself to a given date—let us hope the first of a prolonged series of substantial dividends will be paid. (Applause.)

A FIELD WITH A MAGNIFICENT FUTURE.

From personal knowledge I could make a calculation, and compute the extent of our prospective gains; but it is always wise not to prophesy unless you know. Taking a conservative, and, perhaps, a pessimistic view, it is as certain as anything can be that the results in the shape of dividends will justify the highest confidence which you have all along had in this property. Hitherto, it must be admitted, the potentialities of Queensland as a mining country have not been quite adequately recognised, at all events by the investing public on this side; but, as in the case of West Africans, which, after a long period, have now become fashionable—a period extending over some years of neglect—so also in the case of the Gympie district, the facts have proved the merits of this as a deep level field with a magnificent future. Coming to our own company, it was formed in 1903, and took over an area of approximately 121 English acres in the Yabba goldfield, in the district already mentioned. The situation is advantageous. It is about 100 miles from Brisbane, and about 20 miles from the coast. Since then, to make assurance doubly sure, and in order to prolong the life of the mine, a further area, through which some of our reefs run has quite recently been added to our property. Now as to the question of transport. Years ago, in this selfsame district, a most efficient system of transport was established, so that no difficulty whatsoever will arise in connection with shipments and so forth. Then there are two other highly-important factors, viz., an abundance of water and an abundance of timber. I think you will bear me out that the lack of these, or, indeed, the lack of one or other of them, has, in many cases, destroyed the profitableness and the prosperity of a promising mine. With these two great advantages, and, above all, possessing the prime essential, gold, not merely in paying quantities, but gold in abundance—lots of it—is it not as certain as anything can be certain that your enterprise is going to prove highly successful? (Applause.)

FOUR REEFS.

To go a little more into detail. Briefly, up to the present, four reefs have been cut, developing altogether a volume of ore sufficient to keep up for a long time in advance of the 50 tons per day which is the capacity of the existing plant, together with the plant now in course of erection. Of these four reefs the best developed is the Empress, which measures over 4 ft. wide. The main shaft, which is 6½ ft. by 3½ ft., is down to a depth of 122 ft., and passes through a highly-mineralised quartzite similar to that which is found in the famous Charters Towers goldfield. From this reef about 600 tons of ore have been crushed, and the average result has been well over 1 oz. to the ton; but to that has to be added a very large percentage of gold yet to be extracted, from the tailings when your cyanide plant, now in course of construction, is completed. This reef is traceable for 150 yards across the little creek which runs through your property into the mountain, disappearing as it enters there. This is a very satisfactory feature, as it means that it will be possible to follow the formation by means of adit levels. This method, as you know, is the most economical and the most helpful method that can be imagined. No. 2 reef—the Princess May—which is another line, has an average width of 4 ft. From this some very good ore is being obtained from adit tunnels driven 130 ft. into the mountain, in the same way as the Empress will be operated. The third reef, called the Victoria, which averages 1 ft. wide and assays up to 4 ozs. per ton, is a cross reef, worked in conjunction with the Empress from the main shaft, by which means working expenses are materially curtailed. I may say that the curtailment of expenses, with a view to economical working, is a matter which is having the most sedulous attention. The No. 4 reef is called the Brilliant, and a recent assay of its ore yielded an average of nearly 3 ozs.; the exact figure was 2 ozs. 17 dwts. Now, it is hardly too much to say that these figures are an eloquent testimony of the value of the property. Taking the very moderate estimate of 2 ozs. to the ton throughout the mine, and estimating the cost of treating the ore at the battery at from 4s. to 5s. per ton, you can readily see that splendid results are assured.

£50,000 A YEAR PROFIT.

So far we have only been crushing ore, as it were, from hand to mouth—sufficient to pay expenses—and the prudence and wisdom of this course will, I think, commend itself to you. Before coming to this meeting I was asked by a shareholder whether I would advise him to increase his holding now that the market price of the shares had gone down in sympathy with a market in mines situated several thousands of miles away from our property. I can only repeat that before long we hope to be crushing 50 tons per diem and to be getting something like £50,000 per annum net profit. That might be called the irreducible minimum. If one were to go more closely into figures, the profit would show something like £70,000; but putting it at the low figure of £50,000, with your modest capital of £50,000, it can be at once seen that large dividends—I was going to say colossal dividends—may be expected. Therefore the present is an opportunity which, in my humble opinion, and in the opinion of others who are better qualified to judge than I am, should not be lost. (Hear, hear.) In order to bring you right up-to-date, I will read to you the latest cable which we have received from the mine. This cable was received since the meeting was convened, and is as follows:—"There are strong indications of another very good reef in new shaft; work is being pushed ahead." I am very much obliged to you for your patience in listening to me, and I do not think that I need add anything further to the few remarks I have addressed to you; but if anyone present desires any further information, if he will address a question, I shall endeavour to answer him to the best of my ability.

Mr. C. T. Chevalier: I should like to know how many men are at work at the mine, how many stamps are actually running at the present moment, and when the cyanide works and the additional stamps will be absolutely in full swing?

The Chairman: At present there is a 10-stamp battery. The number of men varies from fortnight to fortnight—say from 20 to 30.

Mr. Max Browne: I beg to propose a vote of thanks to the chairman for the able way in which he has placed before us full particulars of the property.

Mr. Hazell: I beg to second that. I may say that I have been out to Australia, and when I was there, about six months ago, I heard a good deal about this property which confirms what you have said—namely, that the prospects in every way are good.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I am very much obliged to you for your vote of thanks, and I again thank you for the patience with which you have listened to me. As to our prospects, I think, we may mutually congratulate ourselves on the fact that indubitably they are good. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

"THE BLIND RECTOR'S WIFE."

We have received the following further letter from the Bishop of Rochester:—

Sir,—You ask "Is the Bishop of Rochester not aware that before seeking to exchange Mr. Martin wished to exchange to a living in the diocese of the Bishop of Peterborough, who declined to induct him?" I assure you that I am not aware of this;* nor apparently is the Bishop of Peterborough, who, in reply to my enquiry, telegraphs: "I have no recollection of Mr. Martin's application as to an exchange in this diocese." As regards the general question of the conduct of the two cases which came before His Majesty's Judges, I must say once and for all that I cannot follow you in any discussion of the procedure, and that having made my statement in your last issue, I beg to withdraw from all future correspondence.

Very truly yours, J. R. Roffen.

Bishop's Court, Sevenoaks.
October 11th, 1909.

* Our statement as to the Rev. Herbert Martin having arranged to exchange to a living in the diocese of Peterborough, and the Bishop of Peterborough having refused to sanction the exchange, was made upon the authority of Miss Kate Hatcher, of St. Gerrans, Cornwall. We may add that it was a matter of common talk in St. Gerrans that such an exchange had been sought, and that owing to the Bishop's opposition it could not be carried through.—[Ed. John Bull.]

We are informed by the organist, bellringer, and members of the choir of Holy Trinity, Old Brompton, that the Rev. Herbert Martin has now paid them the arrears of salaries due to them, and they desire to thank John Bull for having directed attention to the matter and so, as they think, induced the vicar to pay them their due.

THIRD-CLASS PASSENGERS TO AUSTRALIA.

We have received a complaint from a third-class passenger by the *Orsova*, of the Orient line, to Australia as to his treatment on the passage, and this letter is signed by three other passengers. It may be remembered that on July 3rd last we made reference to the sailing of the *Orsova*, and in referring to the accommodation, which we described as excellent throughout, we said "it is astonishing how such accommodation can be given for the money." Naturally, therefore, we received our correspondent's letter with surprise.

The complaints are not very serious, the principal being (1) that one of the passengers was suffering from consumption, and (2) that potatoes were served "in their coats." We may put aside the second grievance as frivolous, and as to the first we are assured by the company that there is careful medical inspection before the ship starts, and any intending passengers in an advanced stage of consumption would be rejected.

We are always ready to give publicity to substantial grievances, but our enquiries have satisfied us that the complaints of our correspondent are unworthy. One of his fellow third-class passengers was a member of the local Legislature, and he has publicly testified to the excellent treatment on board the *Orsova*. A long list of other third-class passengers by the *Orsova* have sent a letter to the local press to the same effect, and the Agent-General in this country has expressed his opinion that our correspondent's complaint is without justification. As we said on July 3rd, "on board the *Orsova* the comfort of the third-class passengers is secured in every conceivable way."

TRADE NOTE.

A GIGANTIC PRIZE.

£5,000 in Cash Prizes for a Competition, and a Committee of Judges composed of the Earl of Clonmell, Major Sir Charles Cuyler, Bart., Major S. Byrne, Dick Donovan (the well-known author), and Bart Kennedy, is to say the least of it a startling offer. Nevertheless the proprietors of the new 6d. monthly magazine, *The National Monthly*, have had deposited in Messrs. Coutts' Bank this large sum of £5,000 for distribution for prize money, and are awarding to their subscribers (see announcement on Page 553) prizes to that value, and the prizes will not be divided. The first prize is £2,000, the second prize, £1,000, and so on, making a total of 335 prizes, which will be paid out on or before November 27th next.

Bathing in Hot Air.

A Princess's Gift to a London Hospital.

Owing to the generosity of Princess Hatzfeldt, a hot-air plant was, some time ago, placed in a London Hospital. The treatment is doing a wonderful work. So far it has been applied to obscure injuries to the joints, muscular pain and stiffness, chronic rheumatism, rheumatoid arthritis, lumbago, sciatica, gout, and diseases arising from the presence of uric acid in excess in the system. The secretary to the hospital, talking to a Press representative, said: "The relief is instantaneous—the look of amazement on the faces of the patients after the first application of the local hot-air bath is comical. Rheumatic patients, unable to raise their arms or close their hands for years, have been able to move their arms and hands freely, much to their surprise."

I know that surprise—half humorous, half sad—which comes to the sufferer from pain when he is suddenly relieved after many years. It has been my good fortune to be responsible for that sometimes humorous, sometimes sad expression of gratitude. For years I have stood alone, a solitary missionary selling cheap and effective hot-air baths for the home. I may claim to have introduced the hot-air bath, in a practical manner, to the English home, in the form of the Gem 30s. Cabinet. Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Gout, Neuralgia, and many other afflictions have been cured by my Gem hot-air Cabinet for many years. Just read what a Grantham lady wrote recently:—

"It (the Gem Bath) has done me a great deal of good. . . . Mine is such a bad case of chronic rheumatism. I could not lift either of my arms up, but now I can get them up to my head and I can dress myself. . . . I can walk without pain now. . . ."

I did not invent hot-air treatment, though I did give the hot-air principle its most practical form, for my Cabinet has made the hot-air bath possible in your bathroom or bedroom. The treatment at the London Hospital is excellent. But it can only treat a limited number of patients, and to produce a permanent cure these patients must be treated often, to the exclusion of patients on the waiting list. The only alternative is to give relief and to leave the cure incomplete.

In the hospital a very high degree of temperature is obtained, but my experience proves that the main point is to have a simple and safe means of getting a heat sufficient to induce profuse perspiration, thus relieving the body of the impurities that cause disease, and to take the baths often and regularly.

In a Public Turkish Bath this is expensive. In a busy hospital it is impossible. But 30s. will bring my Gem Bath Cabinet complete to your own house, with every essential for a regular hot-air bath as often as you like, and a bath costs less than 1½d. Without the introduction of my 30s. Gem Turkish Bath Cabinet, regular long continued treatment by hot-air—the only successful treatment for many ailments—would be impossible. It gives the maximum benefit possible in the treatment of Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica, Lumbago, Neuralgia, Nervous Trouble, Liver and Kidney diseases, Eczema, and Impaired Digestion at a minimum of cost and a minimum of trouble.

And with this Cabinet you can not only have the hot-air (that is, dry air) treatment, but you may have steam, medicated or perfumed baths, at no extra cost for apparatus. No visits to public Turkish baths, no breathing nauseating atmosphere, and the avoidance of publicity are all strong points in my system.

You can try my bath at my risk, for a week. If you feel, after purchasing a Gem Turkish Bath Cabinet, that it is not doing you any good, at the end of seven days you can send it back. I will return your money by next post. You need not explain or write long letters. I expect you to take my word, and am prepared to take yours. Send it back at the end of the week's trial, and say you don't want the bath. I shall know you expect your money back, and will see that you get it, on the word of a man with a sterling business record, who makes good every undertaking he enters into. And to prove my sincerity I am willing to accept a money-order post-dated ten days, so that you don't run the slightest risk of losing your money.

At least, if I haven't yet convinced you of the value of hot-air bathing, let me send you my valuable 100-page booklet. It contains a mass of information from medical, hygienic, and common-sense sources. It costs you nothing beyond a simple request, mentioning this paper, on a halfpenny postcard. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to my Company, The Gem N Supplies Co., Ltd., 22, Pear Tree Street, Goswell Road (near Gas Company's Office), London, E.C

£667 DIVIDED

IN PICTURE COUPLETS.

What you have to do.

Below you will find the first line of a Picture Couplet together with a little sketch. What you have to do is to make a couplet by adding another line, the last word of which must rhyme with the last word of the line given.

What you have to do.

Ten Big Cash Prizes Awarded Weekly.

When you have written your couplet on the entry form fill in your name and address in the space provided, cut out the entry form, attach to it a POSTAL ORDER FOR SIXPENCE, and place it in an envelope, addressed to the Editor, *Pearson's Weekly*, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.

☞ Mark your envelope "Manchester" in the top left-hand corner.

All attempts must arrive on or before Thursday, Oct. 28th.

Everyone who enters must compete on the printed entry form, and send a postal order for 6d. with it. The P.O. must be made payable to C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., and should be crossed "& Co." The number must be written in the space provided on the entry form. Where one P.O. of higher value is sent to cover more than one attempt the number of this P.O. should be written on each entry form.

Of the amount received (after deducting ten per cent.) three-fourths will be divided amongst the senders of the ten lines which are considered to be the best by the adjudicators, by whom originality of idea will be taken into consideration.

The remaining one-fourth will be awarded in gifts among those competitors whose efforts show merit.

The Editor of *Pearson's Weekly* will accept no responsibility in regard to the loss or non-delivery of any attempt submitted.

The full conditions of the contest appear in this week's *Pearson's Weekly*. The result will appear in *Pearson's Weekly* only.

This week £236 is distributed in Picture Couplets by *Pearson's Weekly*. The total now awarded is £637. Use the entry form below, and you may be a winner.

YOU MAY USE THIS ENTRY FORM.

No. of Postal Order

When a Manchester maid met a Liverpool lad

_____

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I agree to abide by the published decision and to accept it as final, and I enter only on this understanding, and I agree to abide by the conditions printed in "Pearson's Weekly."

SIGNED .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

J.B. .....

When a Manchester maid met a Liverpool lad
Example second line—not to be used:
His proposal of marriage soon made her heart glad.

PAT-A-CAKE BISCUITS

For the children's sake put Pat-a-cake on the Grocer's list, dear Madam. They're best of all, the cost is small, and you'll never regret you had 'em. Short and sweet, good to eat, daintiest confection—just Peek Frean's and you know that means the acme of perfection.

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FURNITURE
. . FOR THE BEDROOM. . .

Has it ever occurred to you that your Bedroom can be furnished well and artistically, and, at the same time, economically? A room furnished artistically is not of necessity cheap and likewise a room furnished economically need not be artistic, but

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furnish artistically and at the same time economically.

They show some beautiful Model Flats at **£50, £100, £250, £500 and £1,000** complete, and specimen rooms ranging in price from **£10 to £300.** These flats and rooms are well worth a visit even if you don't intend purchasing.

The firm's "1909" Guide and Catalogue, containing hundreds of designs of Suites, Sideboards, Cabinets, etc., etc., as well as Model Flats from **£29** to **£750** is post free upon application.

Pretty Oak BEDROOM SUITE comprising Wardrobe with bevelled glass door, Dressing Chest with bevelled swing glass attached, marble top and tiled back Washstand fitted with cupboard below and towel rails at sides, and two rush seat chairs. The Suite complete ... ... **£6 : 16 : 6**

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OUR GRADUAL PAYMENT SYSTEM is absolutely the fairest yet devised (it is just the same as paying cash), as all our goods are marked in plain figures, and no interest or extra charge whatsoever is added; neither is any deposit required. We allow 5 per cent. discount for Cash.

Our General Terms are:

Worth.	Per month.	Worth.	Per month.
£10 -	6 0	£200 -	4 10 0
20 -	11 0	500 -	11 5 0
50 -	1 8 0	1,000 -	22 10 0
100 -	2 5 0	2,000 -	45 0 0

Any amount pro rata, or by other proportionate payments if desired.

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Midland Furnishing Co.

1.—Country customers' fares to town are paid on all orders of £30 worth and upwards.
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Business Hours, 9 to 8, Saturdays 9 to 6. Thursdays we do NOT close early.

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Do they call him "Loud George" now?
Is the King trying a "sovereign" remedy for the political situation?
Is it really a poor man's Budget?
Hasn't Lloyd George any premier consideration?
Is Sir John Fisher giving up the "steerage" for the Peerage?
Does the Bermondsey Tariff Reform candidate pronounce his name "Dump-freeze"?
Who says Mr. Cody is an aero-nought?
Do they "pass the bag" at the Church Congress?
Has John Burns got a private development idea of his own?
Isn't the Aero Club putting on too many aers?
Why doesn't Peary prove his own claim instead of trying to disprove his rival's?
Is "Mid-Channel" to be withdrawn because the characters were all at sea?
Are the Parisian North Pole ball dresses trimmed with bare-skin?

M. Farman has lost an aeroplane. Vanished into thin air, no doubt.

"First Aeroplane Lawsuit," reads a headline. In the High Court, of course.

A letter sent twenty-one years ago has just been delivered near Burton-on-Trent. A late post.

The San Francisco doctor who has set himself the task of rearing a perfect human being is evidently a man of extraordinary cultivation.

"The English have always hated organisation," says Dr. Emil Reich. Especially barrel-organisation.

"My Summer in London," is the name of a new book. The author must have a good memory.

Lord Portman has promised £100 towards the proposed circus at the junction of York Place and Marylebone Road. We presume it will improve his property.

"Bomb at a Wedding," says a contemporary. We hope it didn't break up the party.

"Women were intended to be the decorative set of the human race," says the Bishop of Bristol. But they object to be "on the shelf."

A blind man who died recently had been married five times. Once is usually sufficient to open a man's eyes.

A Zurich burglar, who left his umbrella in the house he had robbed, went back for it and was caught. He won't need it for some time now.

The two-year-old baby accused at Tower Bridge of "wandering without visible means of subsistence," might have pleaded the Gamboling Act.

Someone has invented a new dress coat to "distinguish gentlemen from waiters." The difference between them is evidently a clothes thing.

"A good memory is often a matter for regret," says Ernest Plumb. Yes, if it is your tailor's.

According to a Chicago clergyman, "Hell will be a bore." No wonder it is spoken of as a "yawning pit."

Hall Caine describes Socialism as "another form of the Messianic idea." Yes, with the accent on the Mess.

"Suffragist in Servia," we read. Hasn't that unfortunate country troubles enough?

The headline, "Actor Plays Seven Parts," suggests a reason for stage unemployment. The profession should agitate for "One man, one part."

A Cincinnati by-law forbids negroes to use the public baths. And they call it a "free" country.

"Round the World," is the new Empire ballet. The authors have given themselves plenty of latitude.

"Duke's Daughters as 'Stars,'" says a morning paper. We hope they didn't *wink*.

In a recent case, the wife said her husband was lazy, and spent most o his time in bed. Not the only man who lives on tick.

Several chests of tea were recently stolen from Eastcheap. They may now be up the spout.

Force meat "bawls."—The cries of the Suffragettes under stomach-pump treatment.

Mr. Pinero thinks that if the Censorship were abolished "nobody would be one penny the worse off." Not even the Censor?

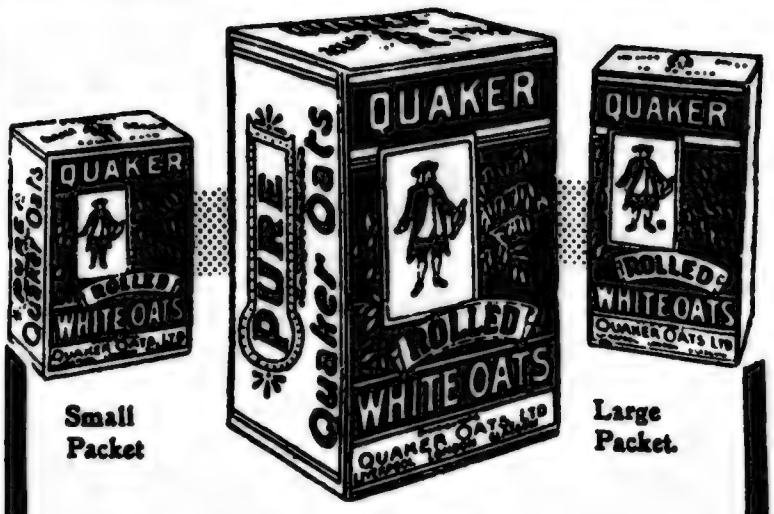
It is reported that the Riffs are using Dum-dum bullets. An unspeakable atrocity.

The Vicar of Laneham, Notts., has seven sons, all in the Church of England. Their descendants can claim to come of a "good" family.

"The Red Room"—just published—has apparently no lack of local colour.

A Frenchman has written 17,345 words on an ordinary post-card. Some of our correspondents would run him close.

"Suffragists Fed by 'Force'," reads a headline. Were they "off their (Grape) nuts"?



Small Packet — Large Packet.

1/- Family Packet.

The New Shilling Packet of Quaker Oats means a saving in your household expenses. The number of plates of delicious, nourishing food that may be made from one of these large, generous packets will surprise you.

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4/9	2/6	1/-	6/-	3/-	1/3

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JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc., which will be duly acknowledged.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* when stamped, addressed envelopes are sent for the purpose. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The Editor *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

M. F. (Bristol).—Our editor will be in your city in a few weeks' time, and will look you up.

W. C. C. (London) is afraid that the John Bull League, like various Ratepayers' Associations, will soon degenerate into the ordinary methods, ith John Bull as chairman and all his friends as Councillors or M.P.'s. W. C. C. had better come to the Albert Hall meeting.

J. P. S. (Walthamstow).—You will see that we lost no time in giving the Dukes their due.

"Musical" (Nondweni, Zululand) sends us greetings from that distant spot, and tells us that a few years ago a subscription was got up by a local parson "for the purchase of a piano for use at Sunday services and other entertainments." Some Sunday services, however, are anything but entertaining.

"Nozaza" (another Zululand reader)—where we do get to to be sure!—inquires "the age of Mr. Leonard Boyne, the actor." What shall we be asked next?

"Curious" (Aberdeen) sent 10s. to the Literary Exchange (60 Haymarket), to induce them to place a short story for him. But he can't even get a receipt for his money. We notice that the name of the Commercial Manager is Faith, that of the Secretary, Sharpe. So we suppose that Faith is needed to counteract Sharpe's practice.

S. A. M. (S. Hackney) did not perceive that Krovski was a Crovian pseudonym. We quite agree that many foreigners come to England because they have been subjected to inhuman persecution at home. But the following will not find universal favour: "To escape mauling from a lion, a man is glad to bury himself in a pig's-sty. What then can one think when he sees the pig sniffing the air contemptuously?" There is gratitud for hospitality!

F. S. (Derby) wants to know if the P.O. Cigarette Co., of North Street, Brighton, is the same as the Crown Cigarette Co., of Cheapside, London.

W. K. W. (Sunderland).—The only remedy for your complaint is to join the John Bull League.

T. E. C. (Southampton) says he was standing on the Lyndhurst railway station platform a short time ago and noticed six large bass mats, each containing what looked like a half side of venison, directed to the Hon. So-and-So "with the Hon. Gerald Lascelles' compliments." He fears that if he were to take a small stick or a rabbit from the New Forest, he would be prosecuted. He had better communicate with Mr. Lloyd George with a view to another clause being added to the Finance Bill.

C. E. B. (Hove) and Others want us to take a biscuit for stating that twelve men and seven boys were in church and that half of them left. But, perhaps, one of the boys stuck in the doorway. He enquires about Fellows and Co. (Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham), who run a competition for "solid gold watches." They seem to carry on the usual trick in connection with the purchase of a chain.

J. W. B. (Dalston) and Others.—We are tired of exposing the M. A. Winter Co., of Washington. You really must read our back numbers.

"Glasgow" (Belfast) sends us a cutting from a Glasgow paper ridiculing Londoners for objecting to pay a bawbee to ride in the tramcars over Blackfriars Bridge. We do not agree that there would have been "many facetious observations" if this had occurred in Scotland. Nobody but Mr. Crosland now ridicules the gallant Cocks of the North.

"Enquirer" (Crayford).—We believe most of the advertised racing systems are swindles, and that the one you mention is no exception.

M. R. (Northampton) wants the John Bull League to keep its eye on the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews. It will.

"Weasel" (Brighton) says that our correspondent H. E. H. F. (Wigan) has mis-represented the sport of otter-hunting; that hunters do not carry spears but merely poles which are intended to assist their progress. He thinks that if H. E. H. F. takes a spear out otter-hunting and attempts to stab the otter with it, the Master will be positively rude, and the first member of the field who sees him will put him under the water. We agree that all ignorance of sport is both "sickening and ghastly," but we did not say whether we were criticising the alleged practice or the ignorance of our correspondent.

A. C. (Hove) and Others think we ought not to have given a biscuit to a railway company announcing a through train, but stating that it stopped at intermediate stations. That may be the railway company's point of view, but it is not that of the general public.

M. N. (London, S.E.) writes to Jim Crow:—"Horatio may call you a *Crank*, but God-a-mercy, surely, a *crank* who is not afraid to call a 'terminological inexactitude' a 'big thumping lie,' is the fit and proper person to write and talk to *cranky* people!" He also adds:—"God-a-mercy, there is more care taken in the joining of horses and dogs than in the human race. Should this be so? Surely something is wrong?" Evidently another crank has got into our machinery.

Mr. Bradley at the age of 78.

OLD-AGE COUGHS

Asthma, Bronchitis and Blood-spitting.

Veno's Lightning Cough Cure is now recognised the world over, as the standard remedy for all affections of chest, throat and lungs. It is guaranteed free from all dangerous drugs, and in cases of Bronchitis, Asthma and Chronic Bronchial troubles, it is the finest medicine procurable as it does not simply relieve but radically cures.

Mr. George Bradley, Long Street, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos, writes:—"Two years ago I had a serious illness which left me with a very bad cough, but Veno's Lightning Cough Cure cured me after trying everything else in vain. I always use it when I have a cold or cough, and it never fails to cure me. I am 78 years of age, a fact which shows the wonderful sustaining properties of Veno's Lightning Cough Cure."

Ask for Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, 9½d, 1/1½, and 2/9, of all chemists

VENO'S

LIGHTNING COUGH CURE.

DEADLY CATARRH.

Thousands of Lives in Jeopardy. Liability to Deafness, Asthma, or Consumption.

Just now there is an alarming prevalence of Nasal Catarrh in the British Isles. Few people, comparatively, understand what this dangerous ailment really is, and yet very few are exempt from its ravages.

It begins with an ordinary cold in the head, neglected generally, in the expectation that it will cure itself. The delicate membranes of the nasal passages, mouth, and throat become irritated and inflamed, mucus accumulates, there is the need of more or less frequent spitting, headaches are frequent, and the breath smells offensively. Later the involuntary swallowing of the poisonous mucus causes disorders in the stomach, kidneys, and other organs. Deafness, Asthma, Bronchitis, and even dreaded Consumption follow in the train of this "chronic cold in the head," which is really nasal catarrh.

If you have any doubt about your ailment, read the following symptoms of Catarrh, arranged in the orm of questions:—

1. Is your voice husky?
2. Is the breath offensive?
3. Is the nose stopped up?
4. Does the nose discharge?
5. Do you snore when asleep?
6. Do crusts form in the nose?
7. Do you have sneezing spells?
8. Is the sense of smell affected?
9. Do you suffer from headache?
10. Is there fulness in the throat?
11. Do you expectorate frequently?
12. Do you have to clear the throat?

If you answer "Yes" to any of the foregoing questions, you are undoubtedly suffering from Catarrh, and should, without a moment's delay, carry out the simple home treatment suggested in a recently-published booklet, entitled, "Catarrh—Its Cause and Cure." The Booklet can be obtained from Erasmus Colman (Room 922), 22, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C., and a copy will be sent gratis and post free to anyone who writes for it (a postcard will do).

It is a fearful mistake to neglect catarrh. It is quite certain to develop into something worse. It will not cure itself.

Subscription Closes on Saturday, October 23rd.

America and Canada are Booming. Great Prosperity. Record Harvests. Immense Trade.

Whether or not you have ever dealt in American Railroads, or Canadian Stock we proclaim this fact; send us at once the application form attached below and learn from your own experience whether our advices and methods are valuable. We shall not invite you to any other dealings before we have completely proved that we know what we are talking about.

The time to buy is on days of reaction, as this is the condition precedent to a rise in prices. Very large amounts were paid out in connection with our former Trust transactions. Participants in our future Trust operations are invited to inspect list of payments.

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A great boom has commenced in America and Canada. It will be the boom of the century. America and Canada are growing with wonderful rapidity. There are record crops. Great and wonderful harvests. Land values going up by leaps and bounds. Vast trade expansion, and consequently fortunes being made every day.

You cannot be pushed out of the market in six months even if a panic should occur. Temporary reactions do not affect your transaction in the least, and no further margin is required.

(For 3 Months, £2 for every 1,000 dols.)

Your whole liability is limited to £2 (remitted) for every $1,000.

The profit in three months is estimated at £45 for every £2 remitted, which should mean that one will have returned £45 plus £2, equal to £47.

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Nothing else is expected of you than to recommend us to the circle of your acquaintances after the success has been completely proven, that means not before you have received from us £45 on your £2 remitted.

THE SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, THE 23rd OF OCTOBER

Amount Required £2
Estimated Profit £45

GERSON HAMSON & CO., LIMITED, Norfolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: ESPONJAS, LONDON.

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR 1909.

INTERVIEW WITH A WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN MAGNATE.

We dare say we are experts in Yankees (American Railways) and Canadian Stock, and that we know everything about them that can be known. We dare say that we understand the entire Wall Street System better than any one of our competitors, and very often have an occasion to feel that in 3 months we could bring you further than you can get yourself in 3 years.

Nowadays almost everybody has a friend who is a dealer or broker in Stocks and Shares, so we cannot expect that you should give us the preference, unless we actually prove to you that we are often sooner and better informed than other firms. In the end the public will transact their business where the best profits are to be gained and the best conditions to be obtained.

We shall prove to you that our advices are valuable.

A Trust in Missouris: It is our intention to possess in 1909 the largest amount of clients that ever a stock broker or dealer could boast of, and we will realise this fact through our Trust Operations. We will force you to a certain degree, at least once, to give us an order and to form your own opinion about our method of dealing and the capacities of our correspondents.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN.

"Don't be a Bear on America," J. Pierpont Morgan said. "That man who is, goes broke." And we say "America is going to hum and Canada too."

Whether or not you have ever dealt in American Railroads, or Canadian Stock we proclaim this fact: Send us at once the application form attached below and learn from your own experience whether our advices and methods are valuable.

OUR PROPOSITION.

A Trust in Missouri, Kansas & Texas (For every Thousand Dollars you must send £2—and the estimated profit is £45—in 3 months).

Condition 1st. All shares are opened at the London closing price of Saturday, the 23rd of October, which quotations are controlled by almost every English paper (Globe, Daily Telegraph, Financial News, Financial Times, &c., &c.). Suppose the closing price in London should be 50½ - 50¾ then is the buying price 50¾ nett, which means naturally without you paying any further commission or other expenses. If you sell or buy according to tape prices and yet have to pay commission you are paying too much.

A Daily Newspaper, from which you are able to ascertain these prices exactly, is sent you free of charge with every order.

2nd. All transactions will be closed the same date at London closing price, i.e., three months after the Trust opens, i.e., Monday, 24th January, 1910, and all profits, without any limit will be returned with the two pounds of your remittance.

3rd. If on Monday, 24th January, 1910, there would have been no profit made, the transaction will be kept open for the next 3 months, i.e., Saturday, 23rd April, 1910, without any further margin. We hope it is now quite clear to you that the worst that can happen is that the closing quotation in London on 23rd April, 1910, is 1% per cent. or more under the quotation of 23rd Oct., 1909, and then, and only then, would your loss be £2, and under no circumstances more than the two pounds remitted.

4th. Every buyer receives a stamped contract informing the purchaser that if necessary we keep the account open for 6 months, and that the entire responsibility of the buyer is limited to the £2 remitted.

OUR CORRESPONDENT PREDICTS:

A boom in Yankees and quotations for the different shares never surpassed also that Missouris will be 75%. That means, those investing in Missouris should make a profit of £45 on every 1,000 Dollars. Please keep in mind that the same correspondent after an interview with one of the best known American financiers predicted a rise of 60 per cent. in Unions, and those who have followed our advice will not have forgotten this.

We are convinced that through our Trust Operations we shall enlist and retain you as one of our clients.

On Saturday, 23rd Oct., the Subscription will be closed. If you wish to become a participant in the Trust please send by return post the attached application form, with your name and address and the amount of Two Pounds to:—

GERSON HAMSON & CO., Limited, Norfolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

CHAT ON 'CHANGE.

This book, compiled by a leading financial expert, will be sent gratis and post free to every one subscribing in our Trust Operation.

It is a complete handbook and guide for the use of those who wish to study the various methods of Stock Exchange operations.

Being written in plain and easy language, it can be readily understood by everybody.

THIS FORM MAY BE USED. J.B.

I buy thousand Dollars Missouri Kansas and Texas Common Shares on the London closing price of Saturday, the 23rd of Oct., 1909, and further on the conditions as mentioned in your advertisement, for which I enclose £2, with the understanding that my entire risk is limited to this amount.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

If you will invest a larger amount, please make the form out accordingly. For instance: If you wish to make out the form for $5,000 you must remit £10. You can also REMIT BY POSTAL ORDER OR CHEQUE.

More of these forms can be obtained by application to our offices or by writing.

J. M. H. (Glasgow) says the Glasgow Sabbath is far from being dreadful or dull. He points out that thousands and tens of thousands of people enjoy themselves in the parks "as only Scottish people can." How is that? There are fine tea rooms, and restaurants, and electric cars, and Sunday steamers, and beautiful scenery in the neighbourhood, and the Sunday closing of public-houses does away with the brawling and drunkenness to be found in England. Jim Crow has made up his mind to start for Glasgow at once.

"Ciatiment" (Balham) suggests that Suffragettes should be birched instead of being sent to prison. We are afraid this will not commend itself to Mr. Keir Hardie.

Mr. L. (Streatham) complains of the confusion in connection with the Council cars since they opened Blackfriars Bridge.

"A Reader of F.M.N." says that a five quart basin of boiling water can also hold three pounds of loaf sugar. We have not made the experiment, but we are still sceptical. Why only 3 lbs.?

G. S. (New Brompton) and Others are greatly excited about the arrest of the man at Sevenoaks. Had our recent story anything to do with it?

S. M. (Chagford) is annoyed with the author of "America and the Johnson Fetish," and charges him with making gross mis-statements to the detriment of the Dr., particularly in the matter of his pension. We are, however, always glad to hear new versions of celebrities.

A. N. (Amsterdam) complains that we have misquoted her favourite "Limerick," about the lady and the tiger. Fancy having a "favourite Limerick"! We thought that craze had died a natural death long ago.

H. F. (Birmingham).—"Last night at 4 o'clock in the morning" may sound funny, but, after all, the small hours can scarcely be laid down as daytime—at least, pending the passage of the Daylight Saving Bill.

C. J. M. (Sheffield) labours under the delusion that we are anti-religious, and objects, particularly, to Crow's observations on Saints, which, however, are only intended to make our correspondents blink.

H. L. (Mile End, E.).—We are not authorities on Jewish ritual, but we note your complaint against *Lloyd's* for designating the "Great Atonement" as the "Black Fast." We are sorry you have been unable to find a job, and have been obliged to retire to the Whitechapel Workhouse.

"Sympathiser" (London, E.C.) is one of about two hundred King's Own men who have volunteered for India, and he says that there is no doubt about the truth of our paragraph except that the number of suicides has been four instead of seven.

"A Reader" (Lee-on-the-Solent) complains about our remarks on "the King's Own" at Jersey, and says:—"The men are very willing, and the N.C.O's. were splendid."

H. C. (Sheffield) complains about a Mr. Percy Verance Macdonald, who goes about attacking the Salvation Army. Proceedings seem, however, to be going on, so we say nothing.

E. J. J. (Gurston) says that "Ferrer, of Barcelona, is the victim of Romanist persecution on account of his schools." We confess we do not like the look of the thing.

Major F. A. W. (Chester Terrace).—"The track of a tunnel" does not necessarily mean that the tunnel was exceeding the speed-limit. A track, after all, is only a road.

A. T. P. (Montreal).—It was certainly clever of the *Montreal Herald* to announce the result of the St. Leger three weeks before the race. We hope you took it as a tip.

R. A. S. (Birmingham).—Why should *we* take a biscuit for grammatical eccentricities in a Human Document?

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

Oatine

When the face tingles and burns after shaving, OATINE immediately soothes the irritated skin and relieves all tenderness.

A FREE SAMPLE

of Oatine Cream will be sent on application, or for 2d. in stamps a box containing eight of the Oatine preparations and book on Face Massage.

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STUART'S PLASTER-PADS

are different from the painful truss, and being self-adhesive they hold the rupture in place without straps, buckles or springs—cannot slip, so cannot chafe or compress against the pelvic bone. The pads contain a wonderful medicine which is kept constantly in contact, thereby curing the most obstinate cases. Thousands have successfully treated themselves without hindrance from work and in the privacy of the home. Soft as velvet—easy to apply—inexpensive. Write to-day and "Trial Treatment," with interesting book, will be sent free.—Address—

TRIAL OF TREATMENT

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ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of **Potter's Asthma Cure**, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. (Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

FREE TO THE RUPTURED.

A Well Known Authority Sends a Sample of a Famous Method Free to All.

We will send free to anyone who is ruptured, or knows of any person ruptured, a free trial of our famous home cure. It is a marvellous method, curing cases that defied hospitals, doctors, trusses, electricity and all else. Merely send your name and address, and the free trial will be sent without any cost to you whatever.

Mr. R. Wharton, 52, Domestic Street, Holbeck, Leeds, was ruptured seven years, tried all kinds of trusses, partly made up his mind to undergo the danger of an operation, when, by the greatest of good luck, he tried the Rice method. He is cured, *and has worn no truss for over six years.*

R. WHARTON.

Mr. Wharton says:—"I tried the Rice method, and it cured me. I had been ruptured seven years and tried all kinds of trusses with no benefit. I am doing all I can to persuade every ruptured person to try this method, which I think is worth its weight in gold."

Every ruptured person ought to send at once and make a trial of this method. It has cured thousands of people without pain, danger, operation, or an hour's loss of time. Begin now, and in a short time you will forget you have been ruptured. Do not fail to send in this Coupon to-day.

COUPON (B 1101).

Cut out and post to WM. S. RICE, Ltd., 8 & 9, Stonecutter Street, London, E.C.

Time Ruptured?.....*Age?* .....

Right, left, or both sides, or navel?.....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

How to Learn Languages with Facility.

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The student can put himself in an appropriate "environment" by means of the phonograph whenever he may wish. His ear is quickly trained to a ready appreciation of the foreign sounds. An extensive vocabulary and perfect pronunciation are rapidly acquired. And to *think* in the foreign tongue—the real test of mastery of a language—becomes second nature. The student's work is carefully corrected by experts by correspondence.

Let us send you full particulars of this unique method of thoroughly acquiring a foreign tongue, with practical testimony from students, commercial men, professors, travellers, etc. Kindly specify French, German, or Spanish.

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Send full particulars of your requirements.

No Limit. Honourable Dealings, Prompt Settlements.

BETTER THAN EVER.

THIS WEEK'S

"Throne and Country"

COLOURED CARTOON:

MR. A. J. BALFOUR.

"PRUDENCE"

Is the name of the Book which has become the recognised

STANDARD GUIDE WORK FOR SPECULATORS AND INVESTORS.

This splendid book is issued absolutely free as an advertisement by the

STOCK EXCHANGE & BANKING CO.,

STOCK BROKERS AND DEALERS. Ltd.,

It explains the Safeguards required to ensure Success on the Stock Exchange.

The best proof of the **enormous** demand for this book lies in the fact that it has already attained its

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CONTENTS OF BOOK "PRUDENCE."

PART I.	PAGES
Americans, as an Investment	19
Disadvantages of One, Two, or Three Point Margin	23
General Rules	15
How to Start a Speculative Account	9
How to Calculate the Approximate Margin required	12
Home Railways as a Speculative Medium	15
How to Deal in American Rails	20
Highest and Lowest Prices for the last Ten Years of Principal American Railways	32
Introduction	5
Limits for Buying or Selling	31
Mines—for Speculation and Investment	21
Most Suitable Securities for Speculation	13
Options	24
The Call Option	25
The Put Option	26
Double Options	28
Terms of Business	29

PART II.	PAGES
A Few Points which we Investigate before Advising Clients	58
Banking	64
Different Classes of Securities	52
Introduction	41
Investment	44
Increase of Return to Capital	51
Instalment Issues	54
Increase of Capital and Resultant further Increase of Income	56
Premiums and Discounts	55
Profits on Sales	56
Safety of Capital	46
Summary	62
The Objects to be aimed at	46
The Geographical Distribution of Capital	48

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THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, STOCK EXCHANGE & BANKING CO., LTD.,
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"THE WEEKLY REPORT."
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Name (*Mr. Mrs. Miss*).....
Address .....

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MANY PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO EAT TOO MUCH in order to eat enough.

What you eat—how much you eat—or even how much you digest—is not the whole question.

By stimulating your appetite and aiding your digestion you may be only overloading your system with waste products.

ALEXINE will enable you to "get all the good out of your food." It is neither a food nor a medicine, but an aid to Nature.

The active principle of ALEXINE is free phosphoric acid, which acts upon the otherwise insoluble phosphates in your food and in your system, and enables your brain, your nerves and your muscle to take them up and make use of them.

Obtainable through all Chemists at 2/9 and 4/6 per bottle: or from sole British Agents at same prices, post free.

THOS. CHRISTY & CO.,
4, 10, 12, Old Swan Lane, London, E.C.

The Best Writing Ink for modern office use
Ask your Stationer for it.
All Stationers sell it. In Bottles 1d. to 3/- each.
F. MORDAN and CO., 126, City Road London.

HOLIDAYS.

When packing up, don't forget to equip yourself fully for cleaning the teeth—by including your tooth-brush and a tin of

Calvert's Tooth Powder

Sold at all Chemists. In Tins, 6d., 1/-, 1/6 and 5/-.
New Glass Jar with Distributing Stopper. 1/- nett.
Sample Free if you enclose a penny stamp for postage to
F. C. CALVERT & Co. (Department J. B.), Manchester.

£5,000 GIGANTIC PRIZE COMPETITION

See Page 553.

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.

(*"Larry Lynx" of* The People, *and "Magpie" of* The Globe.)

Prophetic.

Quite a big Sandown programme of both kinds—flat and jumping. Now that the ground is soft—and certain to remain so—it is sensible to adhere to horses who have run well in the deep going. Thus Sungauge and Bustle—both horrible failures this season—are, anyhow, thrown into the Temple Handicap to-day (Thursday), while Elser and Beau Idea have obvious chances in the Orleans Nursery. Merry Margot could not have *less* weight in the Wheatsheaf Handicap, and although she is none too genuine, her Lingfield form gives her a big chance—and she is bound to be a good price. A failure for a long while has been Gala Tweed—now and again prominent in little handicaps; he is therefore surely bound to do well in the selling ranks for the Malden Handicap. On Saturday, jumping, as usual, will have its formal re-opening, and, anyhow, at the winter game we can look to our near (and recently dear) friend Batho to send a few good winners from Alfriston. I cannot quite believe that the remarkable veteran Adansi will win the Chertsey Selling Steeplechase for the fifth time, although the horse runs. My idea is that either Jock or Flax Field—both of whom we *know* to be thoroughly fit—are much more likely to start another busy period for them, with success. Clyduff has no penalty for the Lingfield flat race success in the Norbiton Hurdle Handicap, and as we have not seen Miss Nick out for about a week, I suppose she, too, will go back here to her old game. I think, however, that The Drudge *can* win it, and I am inclined to think that he will. The "best thing" of Saturday's card, however, on last and this season's form is

Wand,

whom Piggott rides, in the Busbridge Handicap, for this is a nice sound horse, very well, and quite likely to succeed.

Turf Accountants (W.C.A., Derby).—We cannot take upon ourselves the responsibility of recommending dealings with any particular firm.

Redecoration at Romano's.—Romano's have just redecor a ted their balcony, thereby adding materially to the ornate characteristics of the famous restaurant. It need hardly be said that Romano's reputation among gourmets has not been subjected to the redecorating process, since its brilliance retains an untarnished and untarnishable lustre.

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A BLEND OF CHOICE TOBACCOS.

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I GUARANTEE ABSOLUTE SECRECY.
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Please send me a free trial bottle of Wincarnis. I enclose 3d. for carriage.

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JOHN BULL, OCT. 23, 1909.

AFTER FREE TRIAL you can order "Wincarnis" at any wine merchant's, chemist's, and of grocers having wine licences. It is also prepared with iron or pepsine, celery, or with quinine, all of which are considered beneficial, but are only prescribed to suitable cases.

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What is Your Number?

OUR WEEKLY BALLOT FOR 100 HELPERS AT A GUINEA APIECE.

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week ONE HUNDRED of such numbers will be drawn and published on this page. These 100 numbers will be announced in four weeks' time.

Meanwhile, the 50 numbers successful in respect of our issues of September 18th, 25th, and October 2nd will be duly declared.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date* bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify *the date* and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following claims have been received for the issues of August 28th and September 4th and 11th:—

J. R. OWEN, Gyfelog, Garn S.O., Carnarvonshire. (No. 27,969.—August 28th.)

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, Tipper Davie Bar, West End, Bellshill, Lanarkshire. (No. 85,278.—September 4th.)

GEO. H. JONES, 75, New Line, Bacup, Lancashire. (No. 221.—September 4th.)

ROGER WEBB, Keadeen, Harold's Cross Road, Dublin. (No. 250,127.—September 4th.)

JOHN LYON, Jun., 51, Watson Street, Aberdeen. (No. 110,469.—September 4th.)

ROBERT TREASDALE, 29, Sebastopol Street, St. Thomas, Swansea. (No. 258,941.—September 4th.)

FELIX POWELL, 38, Myddleton Road, Ilkley, Yorks. (No. 12,487.—September 11th.)

E. STONE, 169, Lordship Lane, East Dulwich. (No. 78,721.—September 11th.)

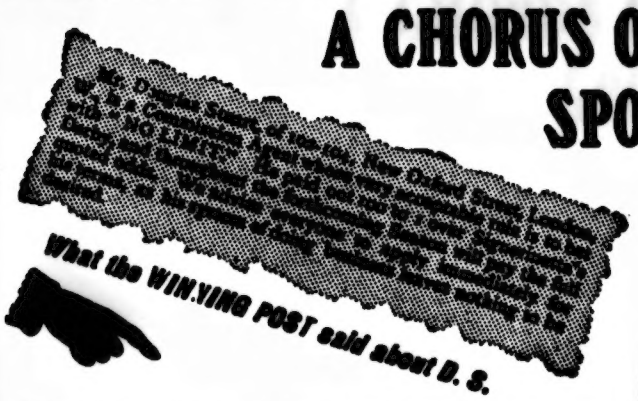
The following are the 50 numbers for our issue of September 18th:—

2387	50803	126981	186566	239674
7930	60983	132132	192995	240195
11266	68354	135572	197120	256412
16983	74333	150986	200245	267883
20004	78288	151128	200673	275111
27941	96257	158249	206491	287426
35119	98620	164012	217803	294004
43857	103574	170983	220563	297377
48052	108211	176247	229518	298752
49875	115243	184296	236863	306197

THE 100 NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED NOVEMBER 20th (PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 18th).

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

A CHORUS OF PRAISE FROM THE SPORTING PRESS



What the WINNING POST said about D. S.

"NO LIMIT"

From the SPORTING TIMES.

"Mr. Douglas Stuart, is indeed, an acquisition; and, though a young man, is quite a Napoleon of Turf Commission Agents. No transaction is too big for him, and the business of few clients is too small for his consideration. It is a pleasure to bear testimony to a firm with such a reputation. Go where one will there is never a word heard except in praise of Mr. Stuart as an upright business man. Mr. Douglas Stuart is simply Mr. Douglas Stuart, which conveys a lot, and he is welcome to the tribute herein contained. I say again, 'Mr. Douglas Stuart is an acquisition.'"

What THE SCOUT has to say of

To the followers of racing, no handbook concerning all the fact and figures incidental to the "Sport of Kings" can be recommended with greater pleasure than that published by Mr. DOUGLAS STUART, one of the honourable and straight men in the Turf Accountancy business. Those doing business with Mr. Douglas Stuart will enjoy special advantages in the way of "NO LIMIT." Place betting on "ODDS ON" chances, and his motto is "Honesty and Straight dealing." Sportsmen should not fail to consult this new Oxford Street Accountant

What the NORTH MAIL said about

DOUGLAS STUART

The most Reliable

"No Limit" Turf Accountant

in the World "Vide Press"

102-104 NEW OXFORD St. LONDON.W.

A commision agent who in the last few years has taken up a premier position in connection with Turf business is Mr. Douglas Stuart, of 102-104, New Oxford Street, W.C. Starting in a modest way, by the aid of "no limit" and punctual settlements his business has now advanced to such an extent that apart from some twenty clerks always at work, he has a telephone-room containing no less than twelve instruments, with several operators continuously taking down messages during racing hours. An extensive clientèle such as that of Mr. Douglas Stuart's can only be kept together in an honest and straightforward manner. If a horse starts at 100 to 1 and wins the client gets paid those odds.

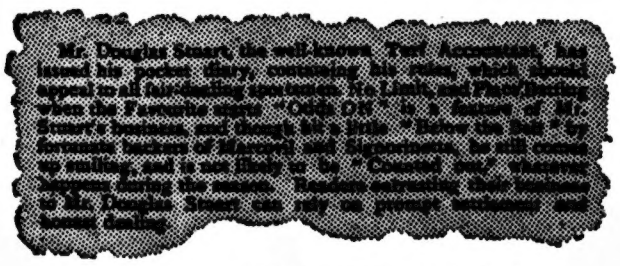
The WINNING POST, Oct. 2nd, 1909.

IF YOU SEE IT IN "JOHN BULL" IT IS SO.

[illegible] (We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

Sportsmen trying to find the double event on the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire will be lucky if they succeed, but should they do so they want to be very careful in selecting a thoroughly reliable turf accountant, who will pay them without delay or fuss. We should advise them to apply to Douglas Stuart, of 102-104, New Oxford Street, for his terms, which they will find fair, as he bets no limit and allows place betting even when the favourite starts at odds on.

What JOHN BULL said Sept. 18, 1909.



What the JOCKEY says about D. S.

"NO LIMIT"

A GOOD TURF ACCOUNTANT.—Mr. Douglas Stuart has sent us his rules for the coming season, and they are interesting and neat, and besides this, in opening an account with him you may be assured of honourable dealings, prompt Monday settlements, and your business will be treated with strictest privacy and dispatch. His rules are distinctly in favour of the Backer, as he is one of the few genuine Turf Accountants who has "No Limit" throughout both the Flat racing and Jumping Season, and also allows place betting when the favourite starts at "odds on." Sportsmen would be well advised to apply to Mr. Douglas Stuart, 102 and 104, New Oxford Street, for his terms, which will be sent immediately on receipt of a letter.

What VANITY FAIR said about D. S.

NO LIMIT. NO DEDUCTIONS. NO COMMISSION.

PLACE BETTING *(even when Favourite starts "Odds On.")* **CREDIT ACCOUNTS. STRICT PRIVACY.**

And these Terms are OFFERED THROUGHOUT

THE JUMPING SEASON.

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see page iii. of cover.